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STATE GOVERNMENT



Senate of Pennsylvania

October 28, 2010

Clifford Hawbaker, Chairman
Dairy Policy Action Committee
890 North Reading Road
Ephrata, PA 17522

Dear Mr. Hawbaker:

As you are aware, I introduced Senate Bill 1480 in September of this year to amend the Milk Marketing Law of 1937 in an attempt to ensure that dairy farmers in this Commonwealth receive the over-order premium paid by consumers purchasing milk in Pennsylvania. The Milk Marketing Law is an important tool to help our dairy farmers to remain viable and on the land, and SB 1480 represents a starting point to improve this law.

We have all had numerous discussions both on the public record and in private regarding this issue; many are quick to speak in generalities regarding the Milk Marketing Law and the policies generated from it. I believe we must move to the next step: putting our thoughts into action.

The legislation I proposed represents a start to the discussion regarding ways in which we may be able to assist our dairy farmers; however, I am seeking suggestions for improvement of the actual language contained in the bill to effectuate this purpose. To that end, I am asking that you review the language of SB 1480 with the members of your organization and offer specific suggestions for improvement. I ask that you refrain from using generalities such as "something must be done" or "this proposal should never see the light of day," but instead make specific suggestions for improvement and justification for each suggestion, using SB 1480 as a starting point.

I intend to call each of the interested parties in to meet with me to discuss potential changes to the legislation through this fall and winter with the goal of an improved and comprehensive amendment to the Milk Marketing Law ready for introduction in the 2011-2012 legislative session. I welcome all points of view, but am adamant that the end result must be of benefit to the majority of dairy farmers in Pennsylvania.

If you wish to participate in this process, please respond to my office with your input in writing by the week of November 22, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Crawford in my office at 717-787-4420.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Brubaker".

Mike Brubaker
Chairman,
Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs

MWB/kjc