

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 14, 2009

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Rural Development, Food & Drug
Administration & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Rural Development, Food & Drug
Administration & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey, Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Members Lewis and Kingston,

We are writing to express our support for the recently-approved \$350 million dairy amendment to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) budget included in the Senate version of the FY2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill (S.1406).

You are no doubt aware, the dairy industry is facing a dire situation. The price paid to dairy farmers for fluid milk has plummeted over 40 percent since this time last year. Every region of the country has been impacted by these record-low prices. In response, the United States Department of Agriculture recently announced a short-term increase in the Dairy Product Price Support Program (DPPSP) to bolster dairy prices. While this emergency increase in DPPSP prices will be helpful to farmers and is a welcomed and positive step, more will be required if we are going to save thousands of struggling farmers across the country from going under. The Sanders-Udall amendment included in S. 1406 provides the USDA with much needed funds to provide farmers further support to weather the current dairy price crisis.

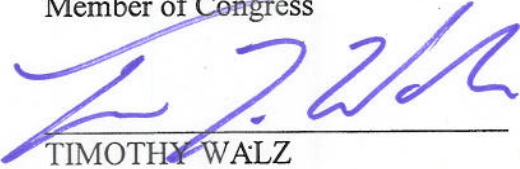
America needs a strong, diverse dairy industry to feed our nation and sustain rural communities. This is an issue of concern to members from every part of the country and from both sides of the aisle. The recently formed Congressional Dairy Farmer Caucus which has 85 bipartisan members is evidence of this diversity. USDA assistance funded through this amendment will enable many farmers to sustain their operations until prices rebound. We urge the conferees to retain the Sanders-Udall amendment in the final FY2010 Agriculture Appropriations conference report.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work on behalf of all of America's farmers.

Sincerely,



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



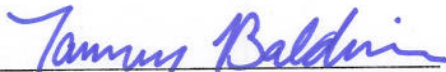
TIMOTHY WALZ
Member of Congress



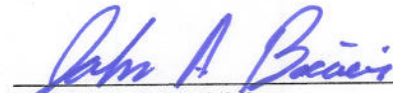
CHRIS LEE
Member of Congress



MICHAEL ARCURI
Member of Congress



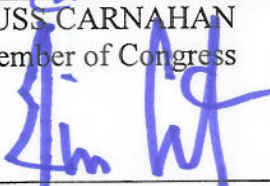
TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress



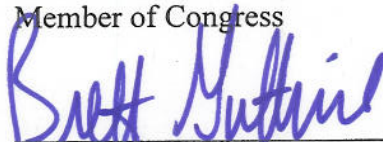
JOHN BOCCIERI
Member of Congress



RUSS CARNAHAN
Member of Congress



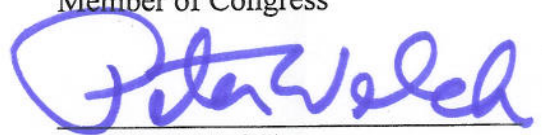
JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



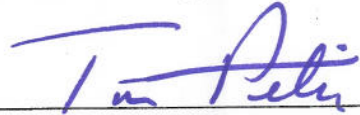
BRETT GUTHRIE
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DEVIN NUNES
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PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



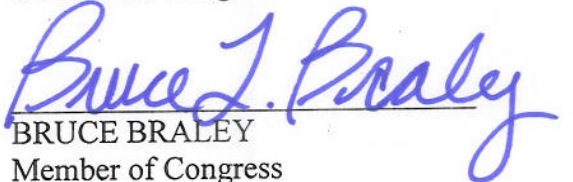
THOMAS PETRI
Member of Congress



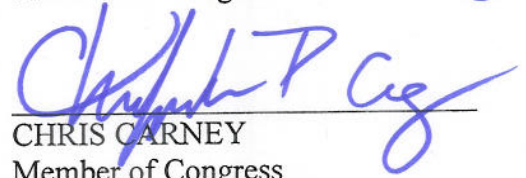
JOE BACA
Member of Congress



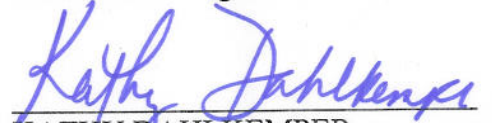
ROSCOE BARTLETT
Member of Congress



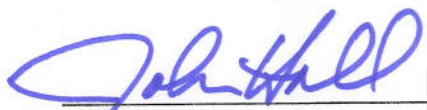
BRUCE BRALEY
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JOHN HALL
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Brian Higgins

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Jim Oberstar

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Chellie Pingree

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Mazie Hirono

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Tim Holden

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Frank Kratovil

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Dan Maffei

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Kathy McMorris-Rogers

KATHY McMORRIS-ROGERS
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Michael H. Michaud

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Scott Murphy

SCOTT MURPHY
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Tom Perriello

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Joe Sestak

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Carol Shea-Porter

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Louise M. Slaughter

LOUISE SLAUGHTER
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko

PAUL TONKO
Member of Congress

Ed Whitfield

ED WHITFIELD
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Herb Kohl
The Honorable Sam Brownback
The Honorable Daniel Inouye
The Honorable Thad Cochran
The Honorable Collin Peterson
The Honorable David Scott
Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Conferees
House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Conferees