



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service

1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC  
20250

*June 14, 2005*

The Honorable Gordon Smith  
United States Senate  
404 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Smith:

Thank you for your letter of June 2, 2005, to the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, Congressional Relations asked me to respond on their behalf. In your letter, you requested that the Department of Agriculture (USDA) give consideration to comments sent in by Mr. Mallorie concerning the recommended decision on producer-handlers in the Arizona-Las Vegas and Pacific Northwest Federal milk marketing orders.

USDA appreciates the importance of the issues discussed in Mr. Mallories letter regarding the regulatory exemption of producer-handlers in Federal milk marketing orders. The comment period on the recommended decision closed on June 13. We have received many comments from other interested persons including other comments from Mr. Mallorie. His comments, together with his letter to you, will be considered thoroughly before a final decision is issued.

Thank you for your interest in the Federal milk marketing order program.

Sincerely,

*/s/*

Kenneth C. Clayton  
Acting Administrator