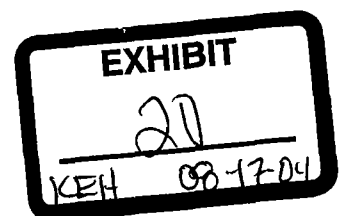


My name is Randall Geiger and I live at 4227 Hickory Hills road in Reedsville, WI. My wife and I own and operate Ran Rose Dairy Farm and I have been engaged in dairy farming my entire life. I am currently President of Manitowoc Milk Producers Cooperative in Manitowoc, WI. Manitowoc Milk Producers Cooperative is a bargaining and service cooperative that serves over 2,900 dairy producers. The services we provide are required by the Federal Order System and include establish or verification of producer component tests, verification of weights and measures and others.

The greatest share of our member's milk is pooled on Order 30, with smaller amounts on Order 32 and 33. We represent producers in both cheese plants and fluid operations.

I am here today to testify on behalf of our Cooperative in support of proposal number two. On the issue of distant milk pooling on Order 30, our Cooperative currently has a small group of members in Idaho. Even though this group is small in numbers it represents a significant amount of milk. If proposal number two is adopted, it may significantly lower the bottom line of our Cooperative. Why did we accept these members into our Cooperative? There are two similar Cooperatives that provide the same service as Manitowoc Milk Producers Cooperative. If we would not have taken them as members, I am sure one of the other two would have. Our Cooperative has a 2-cent per hundred weight checkoff on member milk for the services we provide. I do not know how much the milk from Idaho or other regions has reduced the producer price differential, but even if it was the same 2-cents as our members pay into the cooperative, when calculated over all over members milk it would be a considerable amount of



money. Is it better for our Cooperative to have the 2 cents per hundred weight on our bottom line with the Idaho members or have our producers have that same amount in their pockets? We feel it would be better in all our members' pockets.

As far as pooling and depooling, I currently ship to a fluid dairy plant. When the \$4.11 negative producer price differential was announced, I waited anxiously for my milk check to arrive. Fortunately my dairy plant was able to absorb this negative. Can they continue to do this? I personally do not think they can. It is my understanding that one of the functions on the Federal Order is to provide producer equity. If my plant would not have absorbed the negative producer price differential, a producer living next door to me shipping to a cheese plant would have received an additional \$4.11 cents due to their plants ability to pool or not pool their milk. With the cheese plants ability to pool when times are good and not pool at times of negative producers price differentials, in my eyes this is not producer equity.

Thank you for your time and this concludes my testimony.