



Michigan Milk Producers Association
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July 20, 2011

Ms. Dana Coale, Deputy Administrator
USDA – AMS – Dairy Programs
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0225

Re: Request for a hearing to amend Federal Milk Marketing Order #33

Dear Dana:

The Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA) is actively engaged in marketing milk in the Federal Order No. 33 marketing area. During the month of June, MMPA marketed 87% of our members' milk production in this market.

Our cooperative has always been an avid supporter of federal orders and the concept of market wide pooling. We are disturbed by the recent development in this market where a major processor has shifted from a fully regulated to a partially regulated status. MMPA is concerned about the potential disruption this may create in regards to processor equity if this situation is not addressed.

Therefore, we plan to join with DFA and Foremost Farms and actively support their proposal to amend the definition of a pool distributing plant.

Because of the highly competitive nature of the fluid milk business, it is imperative that this matter be dealt with expeditiously. MMPA requests that the hearing be called for the purpose of addressing this issue only, and that the hearing record be confined to matters applicable to FO#33 alone. It is our hope that this will expedite the proceeding and allow us to close a loophole in the order language that Superior Dairy now is exploiting and threatens the economic well being of our dairy producer members.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Rasch
Director Bulk Sales
Michigan Milk Producers Association