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

April 29, 2009

Dear Ms. Coale:

The New York Organic Dairy Task Force would like to express support for the petitions submitted by National Milk Producers Federation and the International Dairy Foods Association on January 30, 2009 calling for the amending of all Federal milk marketing orders concerning the Producer/Processors rule.

I facilitate the Organic Dairy Task Force here in NY, and was directed by the members of the Task Force, which include: organic dairy farmers, processors, and certifiers, to notify you of our support for the petition.

The Task Force would like to make you aware of the situation that we are dealing with here in NY and the Northeast. In NY, we have 355 dairies producing organic milk with a total herd estimated to be 12,000 cows. The producer processor, Aurora Dairies of Boulder CO, has equal or more cows than all of NY's organic farms. Their milk ends up on grocery shelves here in NY for less than organic milk processed here in NY. Aurora, as a producer/processor is exempt from paying into the federal pool of money that all other fluid milk processors pay into, being exempt gives them a roughly \$2.50/cwt savings over what our organic dairy processors have to pay.

The current producer/processor rule causes our producers and processors to be at a disadvantage in the market place. We respectfully request that USDA / AMS initiate formal rulemaking as petitioned by NMPF and IDFA.

If we can help in anyway, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A. Fay Benson

Cc: Mark Kenville,
Director - New York Center for Dairy Excellence
New York Farm Viability Institute

The Organic Dairy Initiative is supported by the [New York Farm Viability Institute](http://www.nyfvi.org).

