



1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 3071-S, STOP 0201
Washington, DC 20250-0225

January 5, 2017

Charles M. English, Jr.
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
1919 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20006-3401

Dear Mr. English:

On September 29, 2015, the Organic Trade Association (OTA) and its members submitted a formal request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a hearing to amend the ten existing Federal milk marketing orders (FMMOs). The proposal would provide a credit to organic fluid milk handlers against their monthly FMMO pool obligations, dependent upon the price paid to dairy farmers for organic milk. On May 10, 2016, USDA received your supplemental submission in support of the initial formal hearing request.

In addition, USDA received your November 15, 2016, letter providing clarification regarding your initial data request. Our staff is continuing to review the information you provided and is working to determine what data is available to fulfill your request. I also appreciate you taking time to meet with us in December 2016 to further discuss your proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elanor Starmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elanor Starmer
Administrator