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VIA E-MAIL: amsdairycomments@usda.gov

Dana H. Coale, Deputy Administrator for Dairy Programs
Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

RE: Petition to amend all Federal milk marketing orders

Dear Deputy Administrator Coale:

The Pennsylvania Association of Milk Dealers (PAMD) supports and adopts for itself, the January 30, 2009 proposal submitted by the International Dairy Foods Association to eliminate the producer-handler exemption and adjust the exempt plant volume from 150,000 pounds per month to 450,000 pounds per month.

PAMD represents milk processors distributing Class I products in and outside of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. PAMD's members range from larger milk processors processing more than 16 million pounds of milk per month to smaller milk processors processing between one and three million pounds per month, none of which qualify for the producer-handler exemption. Our membership believes it is critical that this issue be addressed by USDA promptly in order to maintain orderly marketing conditions in the markets in and around Pennsylvania and agrees with the substance of the letter submitted by IDFA.

Thank you for your consideration

Respectfully submitted,


Wendy M. Yoviene

cc: Cindy J. Smith, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs
Kevin A. Shea, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs
David R. Shipman, Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service