

JUDD GREGG
NEW HAMPSHIRE

COMMITTEES:

BUDGET, *Ranking Member*

APPROPRIATIONS

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR
AND PENSIONS

United States Senate

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Reply to:
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March 18, 2009

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Dana Coale, Deputy Administrator
Agricultural Marketing Service
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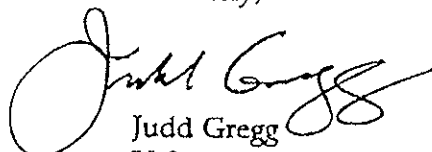
Dear Deputy Administrator Coale:

Enclosed is a letter Lorraine Merrill, the Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, and Roger Allbee, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, sent to the USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service. As you will read, the States of New Hampshire and Vermont have proposed a change in how the Federal Milk Marketing Orders define producer/handlers.

Commissioner Merrill and Secretary Allbee offered this proposal in response to another plan from the National Milk Producers Federation that would have eliminated any producer-handler exemption within the system. They believe that suggestion would hurt medium sized producer-handlers and prevent smaller operators from growing or developing local responses to demands within their customer base.

I would appreciate the AMD giving New Hampshire and Vermont's proposal the highest consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Judd Gregg
U.S. Senator

JG/ml
Enclosure