



National Milk Producers Federation

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Agri-Mark, Inc.
Associated Milk Producers Inc.
Bongards' Creameries
Cooperative Milk Producers Association
Cortland Bulk Milk Producers Cooperative
Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.
Dairymen's Marketing Cooperative, Inc.
Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery
Farmers Cooperative Creamery
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative
First District Assoc.
Foremost Farms USA
Land O'Lakes, Inc.
Lone Star Milk Producers
Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association
Michigan Milk Producers Association
Mid-West Dairymen's Company
Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative Association
Northwest Dairy Assoc.
Oneida-Madison Milk Producers Cooperative Association
Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.
Premier Milk Inc.
Scioto Cooperative Milk Producers' Association
Select Milk Producers, Inc.
Southeast Milk, Inc.
St. Albans Cooperative Creamery, Inc.
Swiss Valley Farms
Tillamook County Creamery Association
United Dairymen of Arizona
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.
Zia Milk Producers, Inc.

January 6, 2017

The Honorable David G. Valadao
1728 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao,

We are writing to support your new legislation, the Gaining Responsibility On Water (GROW) Act of 2017 (H.R. 23). This legislation includes critical provisions to put in place long-term solutions to the water supply challenges in California, our nation's largest dairy and agricultural state.

As you know, California dairy farmers have experienced the worst drought in modern history while also struggling with anemic milk prices caused by weak international markets. California ranks first in U.S. dairy production, producing roughly 20% of the nation's milk in 2015, but drought, environmental, and economic factors are combining to threaten the state's \$7.6 billion dairy farming sector.

California's milk production fell by 3% in 2015, while milk output in much of the rest of the country continued to increase. The drought has increased milk production costs in California, forcing farmers to reduce their herds. This damage follows years of high grain prices, which have boosted production costs in the state and, coupled with volatile milk prices, have greatly eroded farm balance sheets.

We commend your years of leadership on this critical issue for California's dairy industry. We support the common sense provisions included in H.R. 23, which builds upon the WIIN Act that you helped enact into law last year, and we look forward to working with you to advance this important proposal.

Sincerely,

James Mulhern
President & Chief Executive Officer
National Milk Producers Federation