

Wisconsin State Assembly

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

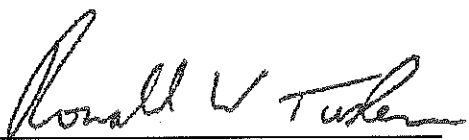
We, the undersigned members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, urge immediate action by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to use the extensive purchasing power afforded it via the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to bring urgently-needed relief to the stressed Wisconsin dairy industry.

Wisconsin dairy farmers are in crisis. On April 1, 2020 the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) as well as Wisconsin farm groups representing the full spectrum of Wisconsin agriculture communicated with your office requesting immediate action from USDA to move aid to states. This action is authorized under the CARES Act and includes a \$9.5 billion allocation dedicated to disaster relief aid for agriculture. This relief is needed immediately in Wisconsin to ensure continued viability of our vast dairy resources. The CARES Act provides unprecedented support for farmers. We need USDA to bring these forms of aid to bear directly.

While our dairy farmers continue to innovate, collaborate and communicate with other farmers and dairy processors, circumstances beyond their control have now resulted fresh farm milk, with no available market for processing, to be dumped in open fields and manure pits across our state. Milk prices have plummeted and will result in significantly lower milk prices - lower than many farms can handle – endangering our farmers' long-term viability.

Thank you for your prompt action to address needs expressed in the letters dated 1 April 2020 and release \$9.5 billion in CARES Act disaster aid that will serve as a lifeline to dairy farmers across the country and especially in America's Dairyland, Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Legislature stands with Dairy and we are ready to support and assist you in expediting aid programs.

Respectfully,



Representative Ron Tusler
3rd Assembly District



Representative Gary Tauchen
6th Assembly District



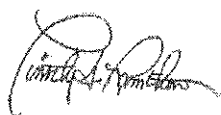
Representative Gae Magnafici
28th Assembly District



Representative Barbara Dittrich
38th Assembly District



Representative Jesse James
68th Assembly District



Representative Timothy Ramthun
59th Assembly District



Representative Dave Murphy
56th Assembly District



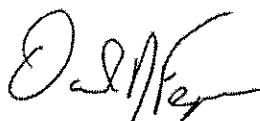
Senator Andre Jacque
1st Senate District



Senator Devin Lemahieu
9th Senate District



Senator Howard Marklein
17th Senate District



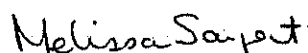
Senator Daniel Feyen
18th Senate District



Senator Kathy Bernier
23rd Senate District



Representative Robert Brooks
60th Assembly District



Representative Melissa Sargent
48th Assembly District

James W. Edming

Representative James Edming
87th Assembly District

[Handwritten signature]

Representative Warren Petryk
93rd Assembly District

Dave Considine

Representative Dave Considine
81st Assembly District

[Handwritten signature]

Representative Travis Tranel
49th Assembly District

Debra Kolste

Representative Debra Kolste
44th Assembly District

Rick Gundrum

Representative Rick Gundrum
58th Assembly District

[Handwritten signature]

Representative Loren Oldenburg
96th Assembly District

Mark Spreitzer

Representative Mark Spreitzer
45th Assembly District

[Handwritten signature]

Representative Bob Kulp
69th Assembly District