



March 2, 2026

The Honorable GT Thompson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Craig:

I am writing on behalf of the dairy farmer cooperative members of the Midwest Dairy Coalition to express support for the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (H.R. 7567).

The bill includes key provisions beneficial to dairy farmers. Specifically, the bill:

- Extends the Dairy Indemnity Program and the Dairy Research and Promotion Program through 2031, and makes the Dairy Forward Pricing Program permanent.
- Expands the existing SNAP Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive Program to include whole milk and hard cheeses and renames the program as the Dairy Nutrition Incentive Program. We would also support an amendment to include yogurt as an allowable food for the program.
- Reflects Dairy Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) updated recommendations on full-fat dairy.
- Includes a technical amendment to ensure that the recently enacted Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act also applies to school breakfasts.
- Addresses unfair dairy trade practices of foreign countries by including a provision directing USDA to give a higher priority to addressing “geographic indicator” trade barriers related to restrictions on use of common food names, including cheese names such as parmesan or feta.
- Even though the Reconciliation bill (H.R. 1) included initial funding for USDA to conduct a mandatory, audited cost of manufacturing survey every two years, the bill includes specific details on how that survey will take place and ensures that the USDA authority to conduct the survey continues for the long term.
- Reauthorizes the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network through 2031 and improves the program by allowing grants to provide mental health counseling via farm telephone helplines, websites, and crisis hotlines, and includes other provisions to ensure farmers have access to a comprehensive scope of mental health and substance use treatments and supports.

Thank you both for your support of these important dairy provisions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steven D. Etko'.

Steven D. Etko
Policy Director