

### ***Letter to Senators Stabenow and Cochran Opposes Senate-Passed Policy that Raises Dairy Prices***

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23, 2013 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Food manufacturer, restaurant and retailer groups recently voiced their strong support for the dairy provisions as included in the House-passed Farm Bill. In a letter to Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-MS), the groups urged the senators to reject "any new government dairy 'supply management' program." A new program to impose quotas on milk supplies, called the Dairy Market Stabilization Program, was included in the Farm Bill as passed by the Senate in June.

"We have learned from past experience that government management of commodity supply and demand does not work," the groups wrote. "Restricting milk supplies will increase dairy product costs for consumers, will result in fewer jobs and will hurt dairy industry growth."

In July, the House rejected the controversial Dairy Market Stabilization Program by more than a two-to-one margin, 291-135. In a rare show of bipartisanship, 95 Democrats joined 196 Republicans in support of compromise dairy language that calls for a strong safety net for dairy farmers without also imposing limits on the amount of milk they can sell.

"The House bill has accepted and incorporated over 75 percent of what was approved by the Senate," the letter continued. "It establishes an effective and expanded revenue insurance program for dairy farmers that will help them endure tough economic times, while removing an unnecessary regulatory burden on dairy businesses and providing opportunity for market expansion, new jobs and economic growth."

The list of groups includes national organizations like the Grocery Manufacturers Association, the Food Marketing Institute, the National Grocers Association, the National Restaurant Association and the National Council of Chain Restaurants, as well as local groups like the Dairy Institute of California, the Northeast Dairy Foods Association, the Wisconsin Cheese

Makers Association, and the Michigan Grocers Association. See the full list below and in the letter.

"This so-called stabilization program in the Senate-passed bill will unnecessarily raise dairy prices on millions of American families at a time when many cannot afford higher grocery bills," said Jerry Slominski, senior vice president of legislative and economic affairs for the International Dairy Foods Association, one of the proponents of the House-passed dairy language and signers of the letter. "It doesn't make any sense for our government to recommend healthy and nutritious dairy foods and to then turn around and impose programs that will make milk, yogurt and cheese more expensive. "

[Read the letter here.](#)

### List of signatories as of 9/23/2013:

Alabama Grocers AssociationAmerican Pizza CommunityArizona Food Marketing AllianceArkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants AssociationAssociated Food and Petroleum Dealers Carolinas Food Industry CouncilDairy Institute of CaliforniaDelaware Food Industry CouncilFood Industry Alliance of New York Food Marketing InstituteGeorgia Food Industry AssociationGrocery Manufacturers AssociationHawaii Food Industry AssociationIdaho Retailers AssociationIllinois Food Retailers AssociationInternational Dairy Foods AssociationKansas Food Dealers AssociationLouisiana Retailers AssociationMaine Grocers AssociationMaryland Retail AssociationMassachusetts Food AssociationMichigan Grocers AssociationMinnesota Grocers AssociationMissouri Grocers AssociationMontana Food Distributors AssociationNational Council of Chain Restaurants National Frozen Pizza Institute National Grocers AssociationNational Restaurant AssociationNebraska Grocery Industry AssociationNew Hampshire Grocers AssociationNew Jersey Food CouncilNorth Dakota Grocers AssociationNortheast Dairy Foods Association, Inc. Retail Grocers Association of Greater Kansas City South Dakota Retailers AssociationTennessee Grocers and Convenience Store AssociationTexas Retailers AssociationUtah Food Industry AssociationVirginia Retail Merchants AssociationWashington Food Industry AssociationWisconsin Cheese Makers AssociationWisconsin Grocers Association

[The International Dairy Foods Association \(IDFA\)](#), Washington, D.C., represents the nation's dairy manufacturing and marketing industries and their suppliers, with a membership of 550 companies representing a \$125-billion a year industry. IDFA is composed of three constituent organizations: the Milk Industry Foundation (MIF), the National Cheese Institute (NCI) and the International Ice Cream Association (IICA). IDFA's 220 dairy processing members run more than 600 plant operations, and range from large multi-national organizations to single-plant companies. Together they represent more than 85% of the milk, cultured products, cheese and frozen desserts produced and marketed in the United States.

. IDFA can be found online at [www.idfa.org](http://www.idfa.org).

SOURCE International Dairy Foods Association

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