

May 21, 2024

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Andy Harris
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition
and Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Chair
House Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Heinrich, Chair Harris, Chair Stabenow, and Chair Thompson:

The [Dairy Business Innovation Initiative](#) (DBII) is a necessary federal program that spurs regional strategies to enhance the capacity, vitality, and innovation of the American dairy industry. With a track record of success and staggering demand, we urge lawmakers to expand DBII investments in the annual appropriations process and the upcoming farm bill to \$36 million each year.

These initiatives convene farmers, industry partners, and academia to tackle production, processing, and marketing needs of the dairy industry specific to each initiative's coverage area. Administered by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), the Initiative provides resources to four regional initiatives that are headquartered in the states of Vermont, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and California. The regional initiatives then offer tailored grant opportunities, across dozens of states, to dairy businesses and other stakeholders.

DBII centers have offered, to date, \$165 million in grants to dairy farmers, processors, brands, cooperatives, non-profits, and academic partners. From small farmstead grants to processing equipment support for regional/national dairy processors, the DBIIs offer a range of awards for hundreds of projects. Project examples include new processing endeavors, new product and packaging developments, sustainability initiatives, and export exploration. All are fundamentally matching private resources with public funding to grow and modernize the dairy industry.

Additionally, we are encouraged that U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Marsha Blackburn, as well as U.S. House Representative Derrick Van Orden, introduced the [Dairy Business Innovation Act of 2023](#) and stand in support of this of this bipartisan, bicameral legislation.

The dairy industry is critical to our nation's food security and provides nutritious and accessible products to millions of families across the country. The dairy industry remains an economic engine

for rural communities and the broader American economy, providing 3.2 million jobs and \$794 billion in overall economic impact.¹

An investment in the DBII is an investment in the future of U.S. dairy and the more than 200 dairy industry leaders and partners listed below ask congressional leaders to prioritize DBII funding at \$36 million annually in both the yearly appropriations cycle and within reauthorization of the farm bill.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Sweeney
Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association

Adam Warthesen
Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative

Dairy Businesses

Achadinha Cheese Company, California
 Agri Bridge, California
 Agri-Mark, Inc., Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont
 AJ's Dairy, Iowa
 Alliance Dairies, Florida
 Alpinage Cheese LLC, Wisconsin
 Andersen Dairy Inc., Washington
 Arena Cheese, Wisconsin
 Associated Milk Producers, Inc., Minnesota, Wisconsin
 Augment LLC (product SuperWhitePowder), Wisconsin
 Ayers Brook Goat Dairy, Vermont
 Balfour Farm, New York
 Barstow's Longview Farm, Massachusetts
 Beauty View Dairy Products, Nebraska
 Bedrock Farm, Vermont
 Berning Acres, Illinois
 Berrybrook Organics, South Dakota
 Bertram Dairy Farm, Wisconsin
 Big Picture Farm, Vermont
 Black Radish Creamery, Ohio
 Blue Ice Creamery, Illinois
 Blue Ribbon Dairy, Florida
 Blue Silo Creamery, Oregon
 Boss Dairy Farms, Inc, Michigan
 Bouchard Family Dairy LLC, Vermont
 Boxcarr Handmade Cheese, North Carolina
 Brookfield Farm, New Hampshire
 Bruce Willis Dairy, Kentucky

¹ <https://www.idfa.org/dairydelivers>

Brush Creek Swiss Farms, North Carolina
Buffalo Creek Farm and Creamery, North Carolina
Carmichael Dairy LLC, Tennessee
Carr Valley Cheese Co., Wisconsin
Cedar Grove Cheese, Wisconsin
Central Coast Creamery LLC, California
Chapel Hill Creamery, North Carolina
Cheese Merchants, Illinois
Cheese Trail, California
Chimacum Valley Dairy, Washington
Cinnamon Ridge Farms, Iowa
Clover Mountain Dairy, Washington
Columbia Community Creamery, Washington
Conant Acres, Maine
Contoocook Creamery, New Hampshire
Copper Crow Distillery, LLC, Wisconsin
Cosmic Goat Farm and Creamery, Maine
Country Food, Pennsylvania
Country View Dairy, Iowa
Creamline Farms, Oregon
Dairy Distillery, Michigan
Dairy State Cheese LLC, Wisconsin
Deerland Dairy, Illinois
Diamond Farms, Pennsylvania
Don-Sim Farm Partnership LLP, Vermont
Drake Family Farms, California
Dreamies Creamery, Oregon
Easton Dairy, New York
Eau Galle Cheese Factory, LLC, Wisconsin
Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, Wisconsin
Fantello Farmstead Creamery, Washington
Farm Life Creamery, South Dakota
First Mid Bank & Trust, Wisconsin
Foggy Bottoms Boys LLC, California
Fraga Farmstead Creamery LLC, Oregon
Fredrikson Farm, Michigan
French Broad Creamery, North Carolina
Frozen Innovations, LLC, Illinois
Gardner's Wisconsin Cheese, LLC, Wisconsin
GoodSport Nutrition, Illinois
Grace Pond Farm, Maine
Grassland Dairy Products Inc, Wisconsin
Graywall Farm, Connecticut
Great Lakes Cheese, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Utah,
Wisconsin
Green Dirt Farm, LLC, Missouri

Grison Creamery LLC, Missouri
Guggisberg Cheese, Ohio
Gurn-Z Meadow Farm, Wisconsin
Hansens's Sugar Shack, LLC, Wisconsin
Harrison's Homegrown Dairy Farm, Vermont
Hawthorne Valley Farm, New York
Hidden Springs Creamery, Wisconsin
Highfield Farm Creamery, Wisconsin
Hightail Delivery, Iowa
Hildebrand Farms Dairy, Kansas
Hill Valley Dairy, Wisconsin
Hinterland Dairy, Iowa
Homestead Farm, New York
Honorone Farm, New York
Howe Family Farm, Pennsylvania
Howmars Farm, Vermont
Huffard Dairy Farms, Virginia
Ingredient Resource, Inc, Oregon
Irvey's Ice Cream Co., Tennessee
Jamestowne Dairy Farm, West Virginia
KCJF, Kentucky
Kings-Ransom Farm, LLC, New York
Lady-Lane Farm, Oregon
Landmark Creamery, Wisconsin
Larson Farm and Creamery, Vermont
Leeco Dairy, Georgia
Leo Leo Gelato Inc, California
Little Lou's Creamery, Tennessee
Looking Glass Creamery, North Carolina
Lost Peacock Creamery, Washington
Maid-N-Meadows LLC, Kentucky
Mapleline Farm, Massachusetts
Marieke Gouda, Wisconsin
Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association,
Maryland, Virginia
Masters Gallery Foods, Wisconsin
Mayday Farm, Maine
Meadow Ridge Farm LLC, Connecticut
Milky Way Farm, Pennsylvania
Millers Organic Dairy LLC, Wisconsin
MK Dairy, LLC, New York
Moore Local, Iowa
Mount Rainier Creamery, Washington
Mountain Dairy, Connecticut
Mountain Fresh Creamery, Georgia
Moxie Ridge Farm, New York
Murraydale Farms LLC, New York

Myerwood Farms LLC, New Jersey
Nash Family Creamery, Tennessee
Nasonville Dairy, Wisconsin
Nicasio Valley Cheese Co., California
Nichols Farm LLC, New York
Nico's Ice Cream, Oregon
Nol-Chem Corp, Oregon
North Country Creamery, New York
Novonesis, Wisconsin
Oake Knoll Farms, LLC, Massachusetts
Oliver Family Creamery, LLC, Alabama
Oregon Ice Cream Company, Oregon
Painterland Sisters, Pennsylvania
Paulson Family Farm LLC, Virginia
Perk Family Organic Dairy, West Virginia
Petit Pot, California
Pine River Pre-Pack, Inc., Wisconsin
Pleasant Lane Farms Creamery LLC, Pennsylvania
Prairie Homestead Creamery, Minnesota
Ran-Lew Dairy Milk Co., North Carolina
Redhead Creamery LLC, Minnesota
Reverence Farms, North Carolina
Richlands Creamery, Inc., Virginia
Rivergate Dairy, Virginia
Robert Giacomini Dairy, Inc., California
Rocky Oaks Goat Creamery, California
Roc-Star Ice Cream Products, New York
Roelli Cheese Co., Inc., Wisconsin
Rokeyroad Holsteins dba, Kansas
Rosa Brothers Milk Company Inc., California
Rowlett's Milkhouse Creamery, Kentucky
Royal Guernsey Creamery, Wisconsin
Ruby Jewel, Oregon
Saltless Sea Creamery, LLC, Michigan
Sargento, Wisconsin
Sartori Cheese, Wisconsin
Schoch Family Farmstead, California
SCREAM, LLC, Iowa
Semifreddo LLC, Michigan
Sequatchie Cove Creamery, Tennessee
Shatto Milk, Missouri
Shooting Star Creamery, California
Shop Springs Creamery, Tennessee
Sidehill Farm, Vermont
Snowville Creamery, Ohio
Southeast Milk, Inc., Florida

Steensma Creamery, Washington
 Stein Family Farms LLC, California
 Stepladder Farmstead Creamery, California
 Stil Dreamn Dairy, Missouri
 Stonyfield, New Hampshire
 Straus Home Ranch, California
 Stuyt Dairy Cheese, California
 Sugar and Snow Gelato, North Carolina
 Sundae Morning Dairy, Iowa
 SweetLand Farm, Maine
 Swiss Farm Veterinary, Iowa
 Tester Dairy Farm, North Carolina
 The Mullen Dairy & Creamery, Ohio
 The Old Stone Creamery, Tennessee
 The Salty Goat, Oregon
 Thistle Dew Dairy & Creamery, Michigan
 Thomas E Stanley & Sons, Florida
 Three Creeks LLC, Georgia
 TMK Creamery LLC, Oregon
 Troyer Specialty Foods Inc., Ohio
 Tulip Tree Creamery LLC, Indiana
 TUNaWERTH LLC, Washington
 Tup's Crossing Farm, Vermont
 Two Cows Creamery, South Dakota
 Two Guernsey Girls Creamery LLC, Wisconsin
 Uplands Cheese, Wisconsin
 Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc., New York
 Valley Ford Cheese & Creamery, California
 Venture Milk-Atlanta Dairies, Georgia
 Vieira Ventures LLC, California
 Vintage Cheese Company, California
 von Trapp Farmstead , Vermont
 W & R Farms, LLC, Georgia
 Watauga Valley Farms, Tennessee
 Westby Creamery Cooperative, Wisconsin
 Widmer's Cheese Cellars, Inc., Wisconsin
 Windy Goat Farm, Tennessee
 Winter Hill Farm LLC, Maine
 WonderCow, California
 Yellow Birch Farm, Maine
 Yummy Industries, LLC, California

Industry Partners

International Dairy Foods Association
 National Milk Producers Federation
 California Dairy Innovation Center

The Center for Dairy Excellence
Cooperative Network
Midwest Dairy Coalition
National Organic Coalition
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin
Washington State University
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Cc: Committee members and staff