



National Milk Producers Federation

2101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 400, Arlington, VA 22201 | (703) 243-6111 | www.nmpf.org

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.

December 7, 2016

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster,

We are writing to support passage of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act (S. 612). This legislation includes critical provisions which recognize that without adequate water supplies in California, our nation's largest agricultural state, our food security is at risk.

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.

Without drought relief and cooperation from the federal government, California's dairy industry is at risk of further damage. We support the common sense provisions included in S. 612 relating to California Water and we urge members to support final passage of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

James Mulhern
President & Chief Executive Officer
National Milk Producers Federation