



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

April 4, 2017

Ray Cross, President
1720 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Dr.
Madison, WI 53706

Dear President Cross,

Agriculture is an 88 billion dollar industry in the state of Wisconsin. Over half of that economic activity is a direct result of the state's robust dairy industry. Wisconsin is home to nearly 10,000 dairy farms that produce roughly 30 billion pounds of milk each year. In fact, Wisconsin produces more milk than every state in the nation except for California. 350,000 jobs in the state of Wisconsin are a direct result of the dairy industry. These jobs include everything from machinery sales, equipment dealers, veterinarians, nutritionists, processors, and everything in between.

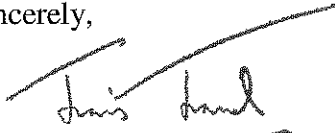
Since the high milk prices of 2014, the dairy industry has experienced consistent price declines. There are many factors that have contributed to this, including a growing global supply of high quality milk coupled with decreases in fluid milk consumption. As prices decline, more and more dairy farmers struggle to remain economically viable and many exit the industry. This is not good for rural Wisconsin or the state as a whole.

This week Grassland Dairy Products Inc. notified 75 of its southern Wisconsin dairy producers that beginning May 1st they will no longer be purchasing any of their milk. Sadly, this leaves many, if not all, of these farmers without a market. Other processors are also swimming in an abundance of milk and cannot absorb it. This literally leaves these farmers with nowhere to sell their milk. Because dairy is such an integral part of Wisconsin's overall economy, it is very important to the state as a whole that we do everything we can to help and support the industry.

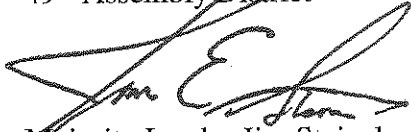
We believe it is time for us to get creative in trying to solve this problem. We are asking for you to consider directing some of the vast research opportunities that exist within the University of Wisconsin System to start exploring alternative uses for milk. I hope you encourage researchers and scientists to be creative and think outside of the box. There is no doubt that ethanol greatly improved opportunities for Iowa corn farmers and the state of Iowa as a whole. We believe the same potential exists for a new product or market to change the dairy industry in Wisconsin and beyond.

If the legislature can be of any assistance in this process, please do not hesitate to ask. The health of Wisconsin's economy is more dependent on the dairy industry than any other state in the country. We believe we have a responsibility to lead on this issue.

Sincerely,



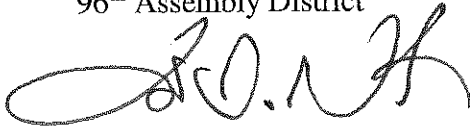
Representative Travis Tranel
49th Assembly District



Majority Leader Jim Steineke
5th Assembly District



Representative Lee Nerison
96th Assembly District



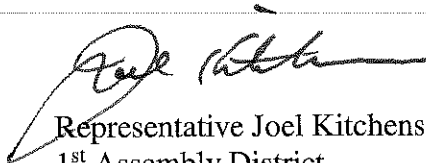
Representative Todd Novak
51st Assembly District



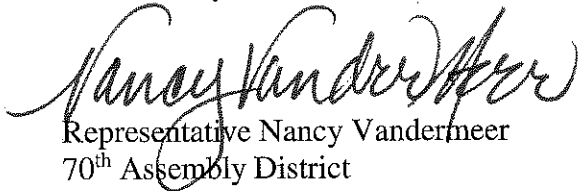
Representative Ed Brooks
50th Assembly District




Representative Joan Ballweg
41st Assembly District



Representative Joel Kitchens
1st Assembly District



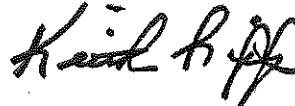
Representative Nancy Vandermeer
70th Assembly District



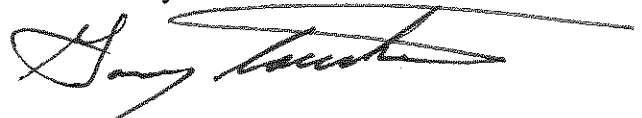
Speaker Robin Vos
63rd Assembly District



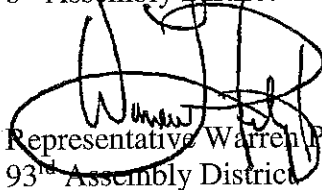
Representative John Nygren
89th Assembly District



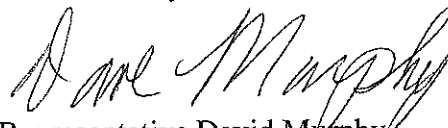
Representative Keith Ripp
42nd Assembly District



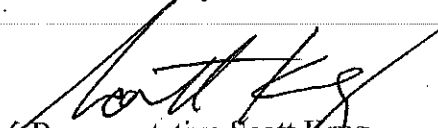
Representative Gary Tauchen
6th Assembly District



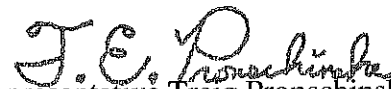
Representative Warren Petryk
93rd Assembly District



Representative David Murphy
56th Assembly District



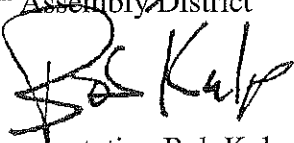
Representative Scott Krug
72nd Assembly District



Representative Treig Pronschinske
92nd Assembly District




Representative Romaine Quinn
75th Assembly District



Representative Bob Kulp
69th Assembly District



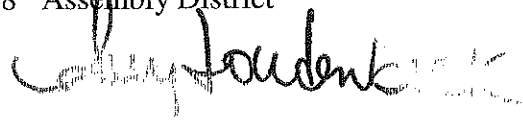
Representative Paul Tittel
25th Assembly District



Representative Don Vruwink
43rd Assembly District



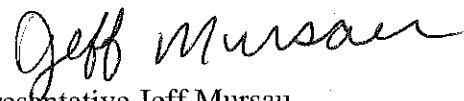
Representative Kathy Bernier
68th Assembly District



Representative Amy Loudenbeck
31st Assembly District



Representative John Macco
88th Assembly District



Representative Jeff Mursau
36th Assembly District