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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

November 4, 2013

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chairwoman  
Senate Agriculture Committee  
328 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Senate Agriculture Committee  
328 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Farm Bill Conferees,

Price volatility has a disruptive influence on dairy producers who cannot readily adjust their production to meet the demand of a rapidly fluctuating market. Reducing market volatility benefits dairy producers and ensures that they can operate in an environment of stability where they can grow their businesses and help strengthen our nation's rural economies.

Volatility in the dairy market is exacerbated by an incomplete understanding of current stocks of dairy products. Lack of transparency makes it difficult to predict the amount of milk that will be needed in the future. This problem is addressed by language from our Cold Storage Reporting Improvement Act (S.456) which has been incorporated into Section 1461 Dairy Product Mandatory Reporting of the Farm Bill. This provision requires the disclosure of dairy products sold and stored, including cold storage inventory, and will significantly aid in price discovery in the dairy market which will reduce producer uncertainty. Dairy producers will be able to better anticipate demand, plan their production, and maintain their competitiveness.

United States dairy producers play a large role in the economic development and food security of our nation, and this provision will allow them to continue their contribution to America's agricultural prowess and economic recovery

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand