



July 12, 2019

Deputy Commissioner Frank Yiannas
Office of Food Policy & Response
Food and Drug Administration
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
5001 Campus Dr.
College Park, MD 20740

Director Susan Mayne, Ph.D.
Center for Food Safety and Nutrition
Food and Drug Administration
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
5001 Campus Dr.
College Park, MD 20740

Under Secretary Greg Ibach
Marketing and Regulatory Programs
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Under Secretary Ted McKinney
Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Deputy Commissioner Yiannas, Director Mayne, Under Secretary Ibach and Under Secretary McKinney:

The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) and U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC) greatly value the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) commitments to supporting dairy exports, which play an indispensable role in supporting the health of America's dairy farms as well as the manufacturing jobs of dairy processors.

One tanker out of every six carrying milk in the U.S. is processed into products that are exported to overseas markets; which last year amounted to \$5.6 billion in U.S. dairy exports. These sales are a key to supporting the livelihoods of dairy farmers and a lynchpin to the U.S. dairy industry's pursuit of profitability and global competitiveness.

We are very appreciative of the numerous steps FDA has taken in recent years to deepen the support it provides to our industry in facilitating the export of U.S. dairy products, working together with USDA to do so. NMPF and USDEC deeply value what we see as a strong desire of FDA staff to forge a stronger working relationship with its industry partners to pursue the goal of fostering expanded exports through trade facilitation. Likewise, we greatly appreciate USDA's work to pursue this goal as well through the efforts of its Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) staff.

To memorialize FDA's enhanced dedication to facilitate dairy exports and to establish a smooth-functioning interagency process between USDA and FDA for collaboration to support exports of dairy products, we strongly support the need for work by both agencies to negotiate and finalize the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under discussion, an initial draft of which was proposed late last year. A successful MOU should outline key roles and responsibilities of each agency in order to foster the ability of the agencies to work in a collaborative manner on the various tasks involved in keeping American-made dairy products flowing freely abroad. FDA and USDA each have a very important role to play in achieving that



goal to enable the U.S. to continue to expand our sales of safe, American-made dairy products around the world. Looking toward the future as exports become ever more important to our industry and foreign barriers continue to mount, this type of interagency document would be extremely useful in providing consistent guidance to USDA and FDA staff.

In addition, and to help execute the understanding ultimately established through the MOU, we encourage FDA to further underscore its commitment to working with USDA and the U.S. dairy industry by identifying key personnel to be dedicated to facilitating exports and ensuring they have the necessary resources to do this important work.

Sincerely,

Jim Mulhern
President & CEO
National Milk Producers Federation

Tom Vilsack
President & CEO
U.S. Dairy Export Council

cc:

Ken Isley, FAS Administrator
Bruce Summers, AMS Administrator
Donald Prater, DVM, Assistant Commissioner for Food Safety Integration, FDA's Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine
Douglas Stern, J.D., Deputy Director, FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

The National Milk Producers Federation, based in Arlington, VA, develops and carries out policies that advance the well-being of dairy producers and the cooperatives they own. The members of NMPF's cooperatives produce the majority of the U.S. milk supply, making NMPF the voice of dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies.

USDEC is a non-profit, independent membership organization representing the global trade interests of U.S. dairy farmers, dairy processors and cooperatives, dairy ingredient suppliers and export trading companies. Its mission is to enhance U.S. global competitiveness and assist the U.S. industry to increase its global dairy ingredient sales and exports of U.S. dairy products.