

April 27, 2006
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USDA/AMS/Dairy Programs
STOP 0233-Room 2958-S
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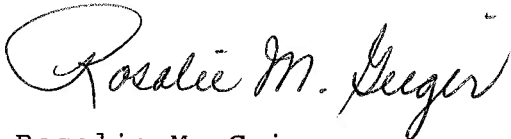
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Section 610 Review of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Program (Federal Register Vol. 71, No. 3: February 28, 2006, Page 9978-9979 [Docket No. DA-06-04]).

The dairy checkoff is paid for by dairy farmers for dairy farmers. Farmers contribute to the national program and typically to a state or regional program through a credit on the assessment. The checkoff works effectively as a national program and on the state or regional level.

I have served on the National Dairy Board for over four years, and I know the programs are a real benefit to dairy farmers and the entire industry. I also have served on the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board since 1994, and they do an outstanding job with dairy promotion, education, and research.

I might be considered a smaller dairy farmer—we have 150 registered Holsteins, half of that number are milk cows, and farm 340 acres in Wisconsin. I believe that the dairy checkoff contributes effectively to dairy profitability and has minimal impact on small producers and other entities which the 610 review is aimed at.

Sincerely,



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