

**JOHN M. McHUGH**  
24TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3224  
<http://www.house.gov/mchugh>

January 24, 2002

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The Honorable Ann M. Veneman  
Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
14th and Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

**35-4192185**  
**AMS**

Dear Madam Secretary:

On October 19, 2001, your Department initiated a comment period on the Recommended Decision on Class III and Class IV Pricing Formulas issued in the October 19 Federal Register.

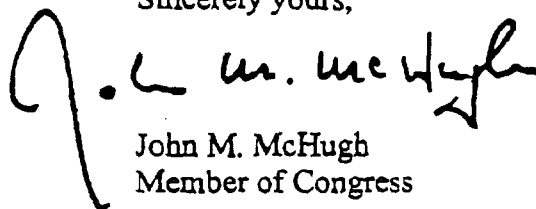
As one who has been directly involved with the dairy industry for nearly 30 years, I have been a strong advocate of increased prices for dairy farmers and have been guided by the principle that, without dairy farmers, there would be no industry. Accordingly, my inclination is to support actions that provide our farmers with higher milk checks.

I have, however, recently heard from experts in the field, whose views I respect, expressing concern that the proposal will place Northeast cheese manufacturers in an uncompetitive position, particularly with respect to California manufacturers. As we both know, Madam Secretary, there is another truism in the dairy industry - without a cheesemaking industry in the Northeast, the need for our dairy farmers will decrease proportionately.

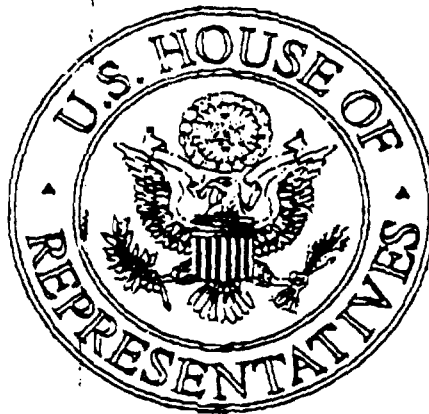
Therefore, I respectfully encourage you to review the Recommended Decision carefully to ensure that all businesses and farms are treated equitably under these rules. Putting any region of our country out of the dairy business, particularly through government action, is a result I hope neither you nor the Department believe is good for the industry or the nation as a whole.

I appreciate your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

  
John M. McHugh  
Member of Congress

Congressman John M. McHugh  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515



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**FAX COVER SHEET**

Date: JANUARY 24, 2002  
To: CHRIS SARCONI, DIR. CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS  
From: JUDI BREWER

Number of Pages Including Cover Sheet

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Comments:

CHRIS, IF YOUR OFFICE CAN HANDLE GETTING  
THIS TO THE SEC'y'S OFC, WE WOULD  
APPRECIATE IT. CALL ABOVE # IF ANY  
QUESTIONS