

24 North Clinton Street, Defiance, OH 43512 Telephone 419-783-4345, FAX 419-784-5924

February 4, 2003

Mr. Richard M. McKee
Deputy Administrator, Dairy Programs
USDA-AMS-Dairy Programs
1400 Independence Ave., SW
South Building – Room 2968
Stop 0225
Washington, DC 20250-0225

Dear Mr. McKee:

RE: Proposed reclassification of evaporated milk to Class IV

Diehl, Inc. is a fourth generation family business headquartered in Defiance, Ohio. Our primary business is evaporated milk in consumer type packages. We have plants in Ohio, Michigan and Idaho producing evaporated milk for national distribution.

We fully support the proposal to reclassify evaporated milk into Class IV submitted by O-At-Ka Milk Product Cooperative. The disparity between the manufacturers operating under the Federal Order and the largest manufacturer of evaporated milk in California using Class IV A continues to widen. We believe that the basic cost of milk should be uniform to all manufacturers and this should be changed as soon as possible. Continued inequities in the cost of milk threatens the survival of Diehl, Inc.

As a packer of sweetened condensed milk in consumer type packages, we would also ask for this product to be in Class IV.

Sincerely,

DIEHL, INC.

Peter A. Diehl President / CEO

PAD:bjl

cc:

Mac McCampbell (C.O.O., O-At-Ka Milk Products)