



Consumer Federation of America



July 9, 2012

Dear Representative:

The undersigned national consumer organizations wish to express our strong opposition to the inclusion in the House Committee on Agriculture's farm bill of dairy programs that are designed to restrict milk production.

Federal dairy programs that restrict milk production, such as the Senate farm bill's "Dairy Security Act", would artificially reduce the supply of milk throughout the country, thereby increasing milk and dairy product prices for consumers. As milk prices increase, low-income consumers are hit especially hard since they spend a higher percentage of their income on food than other consumers.

In addition, the price increases caused by these programs would negatively affect federal nutrition assistance programs, on which millions of low-income families depend, by increasing program costs and reducing their purchasing power.

We urge you to reject proposals that restrict milk production and drive up prices, and to support dairy policies that will not lead to higher milk and dairy prices for consumers or negatively affect federal nutrition assistance programs. At a time when so many U.S. consumers are having difficulty making ends meet, the last thing they need are unnecessary, artificial increases in the price of staple food products.

Sincerely,

Consumer Action

Consumer Federation of America

Consumers Union

National Consumers League