



SD DAIRY PRODUCERS NEWS

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Tom Peterson
605.251.2439

Senator Thune, Representative Johnson, and NMPF call on SDDP to support the “Common Food Names Act”

SDDP was contacted directly by the 2 Delegation Members along with National Milk Producers Federation to lend support for legislation to combat unfair trade practices by countries who attempt to block US exports of common name foods especially problematic with various cheeses. See more in the article below:



JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR for SOUTH DAKOTA

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Thune, Johnson Lead Bipartisan Bill to Protect U.S. Agriculture Exports

May 17, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.), a longtime member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.) today led a bipartisan, bicameral group of lawmakers in introducing the **Safeguarding American Value-Added Exports (SAVE) Act**, legislation to protect American food products from unfair trade practices by foreign countries.

“By exploiting valid geographical indication protections, global competitors have for decades tried to limit competition, block imports, and restrict American-made products from being able to use common food and beverage names,” **said Thune**. “I’m proud to lead this effort in the Senate to help level the playing field for U.S. producers by ensuring they can use common food names and preserve and expand foreign market access for their products.”

“Requiring U.S. producers to change the names of their food is confusing for consumers and costly to producers and manufacturers,” **said Johnson**. “The SAVE Act ensures American producers retain vital access to foreign markets in a time that may be more critical than ever.”

“South Dakota Dairy Producers applauds Senator Thune and Representative Johnson for bringing forward the *Safeguarding American Value-Added Exports (SAVE) Act*, along with the National Milk Producers Federation for raising the issue to the forefront,” **said Marv Post, Chair of the South Dakota Dairy Producers**. “Roughly 1 in 6 tankers of U.S. Milk is exported, which shows the importance of fair treatment in a global market. Unfair trade practices imposed by U.S. trading competition has falsely protected common names, especially for cheese varieties, and U.S. dairy farmers are at a competitive disadvantage. This bill takes a big step forward to combat the abuse of common names so that U.S. dairy exports have a level playing field and access to all key international markets.”

“When the right to use common cheese names is stripped by foreign governments, the harm ripples throughout the entire dairy supply chain,” **explained Jim Mulhern, President and CEO of National Milk Producers Federation**. “The dairy producer community thanks Senators Thune and Baldwin and Representatives Johnson, Costa, Fischbach and Panetta for their introduction of the bipartisan SAVE Act today. This legislation will raise the ambition of the U.S. government to preserve the rights of U.S. dairy producers to continue using cheese names long established as generic. We look forward to continuing to work with USDA, USTR and our allies in American agriculture to ensure that U.S. dairy farmers and cooperatives can compete on a level playing field around the world.”

SDDP Signs on to Support Expansion of School Milk Options

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott,

We write to voice our strong support for the *Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act* (H.R.1147), a bipartisan bill being led by Representatives Glenn “GT” Thompson (R-PA) and Kim Schrier (D-WA). The measure would expand the milk options available for schools to serve in the school meal nutrition programs, thereby strengthening schools’ ability to choose the milk that best serves their students’ nutritional needs.

Good nutrition is a cornerstone of kids’ health and development, and milk plays an unparalleled role in providing the nutrients kids need to grow and thrive. Milk at all fat levels provides 13 essential nutrients, with milk being the number one source of protein for kids 2-11ⁱ and the top source of calcium, potassium, phosphorus, and vitamin D for children ages 2-18.ⁱⁱ Dairy delivers 7 of the 14 nutrients the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends for optimal brain developmentⁱⁱⁱ as well as nutrients vital for immune health^{iv,v} and bone growth and development during a child’s school aged years.^{vi, vii, viii, ix}



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SDDP Provides Milk for Dairy Fest Farm Open House:

June National Dairy Month kicked off with the 10th Anniversary celebration of the Dairy Fest Gala and Farm Open House this year hosted by Hammink Dairy. In order to ensure milk was available for the event, SDDP provided funding support for chocolate and white milk to be enjoyed by all who attended the event. An estimated 800+ visitors came to the farm to experience a modern dairy farm and learn more about cow care, nutrition, dietary benefits of dairy, and of course enjoy grilled cheese sandwiches. A youth activity tent was a popular attraction for young people to gain a better understanding of dairy while having fun doing it. A huge "THANK YOU" goes out to the Dairy Fest committee for making this event possible showcasing the dairy community in South Dakota and appreciation for the dairy farmers.



SDDP Continues to Monitor FMMO Discussions — NMPF moves forward with USDA Request for Hearing:

FARM & RURAL POLICY

NMPF eager for next steps with USDA "Action Plan"

NMPF – June 1

The National Milk Producers Federation applauds USDA for today proposing its "Action Plan" to move toward a national hearing based on NMPF's proposal to modernize the Federal Milk Marketing Orders. The largest representative of U.S. dairy farmers and farmer-owned dairy processors is eager to begin the next phase of creating a federal order system that better reflects today's market conditions and dairy producer needs. "We're gratified that USDA recognizes the comprehensive nature of our proposal," said NMPF President and CEO Jim Mulhern.



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