



## National Family Farm Coalition

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February 9, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy,

Previously on June 24, 2008 and again on December 10, 2008, the Dairy Sub-Committee of the National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC) and 24 other organizations delivered a letter to your office asking that you convene hearings on the widespread corruption and anti-trust matters evident in the anti-market behavior of the nation's largest dairy cooperative, Dairy Farmers of America (DFA). We are now asking that you investigate not only DFA but also their affiliates, National Dairy Holdings, Dairy Marketing Services (DMS), Dairy America, Dean Foods, Fonterra, etc.

The Dairy Sub-Committee would also ask that you authorize hearings on the activities at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) where the absence of transparency contributes to the trading practices that are facilitating these ongoing extreme drops in farm milk prices.

Many dairy experts predict that in the next three months one third of our nation's dairy farmers will be put out of business and in one year there will be 20% remaining in the United States due to the deplorable crash in the farm-gate raw milk price. The prices that butter and cheese are trading for on the CME do not reflect the actual supply situation.

As head of the Judiciary Committee of the United State Senate you have a responsibility to the nation's farmers and consumers to move forward with our request for these hearings.

It is urgent for our nation's food security to insure the survival of our fewer than 60,000 remaining dairy farmers.

Sincerely,

Paul Rozwadowski, Dairy Subcommittee Chair

Katherine Ozer, Executive Director

