Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2006

The Honorable Jim Nussle
Chairman
House Committee on the Budget
309 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Nussle:

We are writing to make you aware of our strong opposition to including an assessment on dairy producers in the House budget. As you can imagine, we have great reservations over a budget that could include a new tax on dairy farmers.

In his fiscal year 2007 budget, President Bush proposed a three cent per hundredweight assessment on milk produced. As someone committed to tax relief, we know you share our aversion to new taxes. The proposed assessment amounts to a new tax on dairy farmers. A tax imposed on one particular group is not only contrary to our political philosophy; it's also unfair to those assessed with the tax.

This assessment would cost the average Wisconsin dairy farm milking 80 cows $443 a year. In total, the assessment would pull over $6.6 million out of Wisconsin's rural economy. We cannot allow this to happen.

We realize that you understand the challenges facing dairy farmers and our agricultural economy. Falling milk prices and rising energy costs are already posing significant challenges to our dairy farmers. By adding an assessment to this already challenging atmosphere, many farmers will be pushed beyond the breaking point.

We hope you will agree that a tax on milk is a terrible idea that couldn't come at a worse possible time for dairy farmers.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to our request. We look forward to working with you to prevent this dairy assessment from being included in the House budget.

Best Regards,

Mark Green
Member of Congress

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress

Tom Petri
Member of Congress

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