

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 10, 2021

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We write to thank you for your focus on providing additional pandemic assistance to farmers, ranchers, and rural communities across our state through the Pandemic Assistance for Producers program. As you continue to implement the program, we urge you to prioritize finalizing the Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) payments as soon as possible to help Minnesota's dairy farmers.

As you know, dairy producers in our state are a critical part of Minnesota's agricultural economy, and we are committed to effectively supporting them through the unprecedented and ongoing challenges they are facing as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. For dairy producers, the pandemic came at a time when they were just beginning to recover from five years of depressed prices.

That is why we worked to enact vital support for dairy producers in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021*. The Supplemental DMC program will provide enhanced risk management to the small and medium-sized dairy farms that have grown since DMC production history was first established in 2014. It will enable eligible farmers to receive additional payments if they are also enrolled in DMC.

We appreciated your inclusion of Supplemental DMC payments in your recent Pandemic Assistance for Producers announcement, and we urge you to finalize this important action as soon as possible to help Minnesota's dairy farmers.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Tina Smith
United States Senator