

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2007

The Honorable Colin Peterson
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Leonard L. Boswell
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry
1301 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Peterson and Chairman Boswell:

We are writing to express our strong support for the inclusion of a provision to reauthorize the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program in the 2007 Farm Bill.

We believe it is imperative that our national policies assist in sustaining productive family dairy farms in all regions of the country. As you are probably aware, many small-and medium sized dairy farmers depend on MILC payments to stay in business when prices are low. When market prices are high, the program is dormant. Commonsense volume limits are placed on the program's benefits to minimize the cost to taxpayers and assure that benefits are well targeted toward small-and-medium sized dairy farms.

Despite its cost effectiveness, the MILC program has not been included in the CBO funding baseline for the Farm Bill. We are hopeful these budget constraints can be overcome. It is critical to include the MILC program in the Committee's bill. By leaving the program out of the mark, we are sending the wrong message to our local dairy farmers, and we urge the Committee to reconsider.

All of the dairy programs, not just the milk price support program, contribute to ensuring that a supply of fresh milk is available in all parts of the nation. By not including the MILC program in the mark, the security of the food supply will be jeopardized.

We strongly appreciate your leadership in the original creation of the MILC program, as you know the MILC program is a top priority for dairy farmers. We stand ready to work with you to find a solution to this situation, so that dairy farmers can be assured of a continued safety net during times of low milk prices.

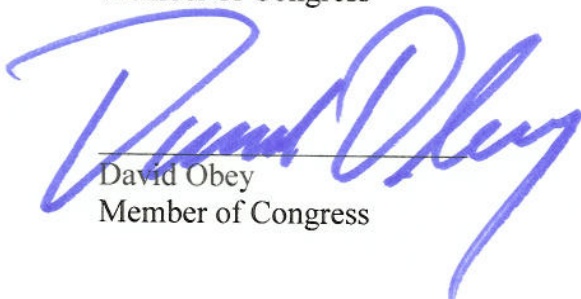
Sincerely,



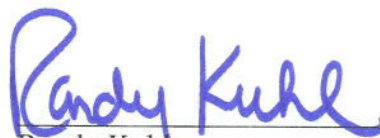
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



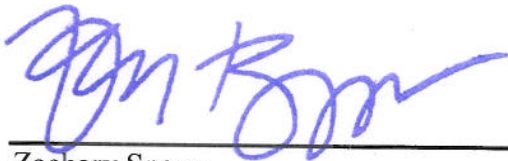
Kirsten Gillibrand
Member of Congress



David Obey
Member of Congress



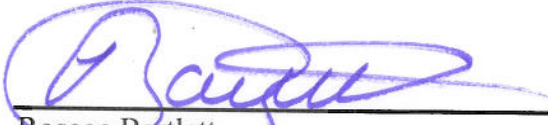
Randy Kuhl
Member of Congress



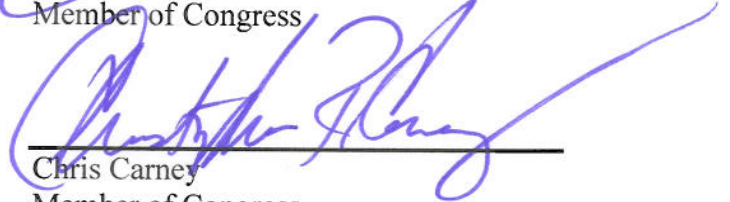
Zachary Space
Member of Congress



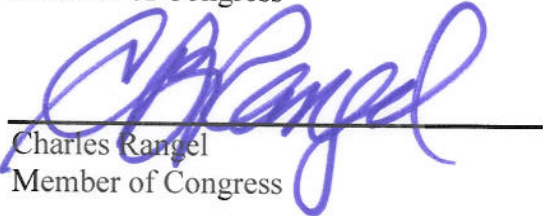
Paul Hodes
Member of Congress



Roscoe Bartlett
Member of Congress



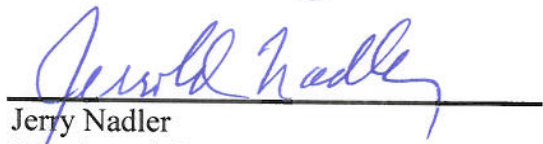
Chris Carney
Member of Congress



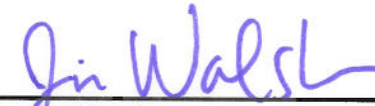
Charles Rangel
Member of Congress



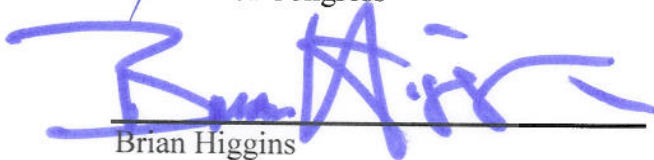
Thomas Allen
Member of Congress



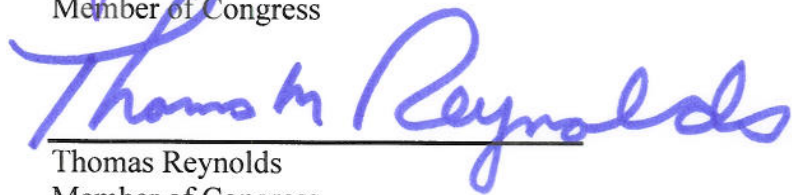
Jerry Nadler
Member of Congress



James Walsh
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Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Thomas Reynolds
Member of Congress



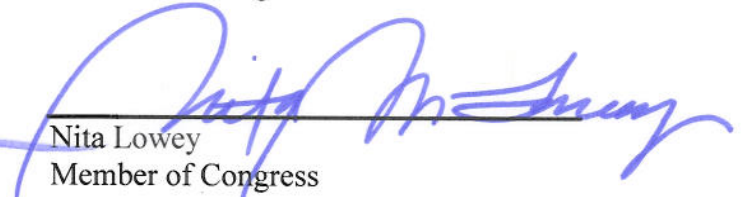
Michael Michaud
Member of Congress



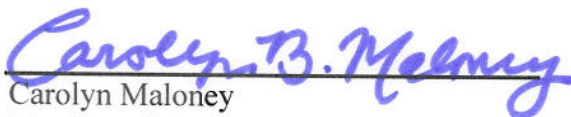
Michael Arcuri
Member of Congress



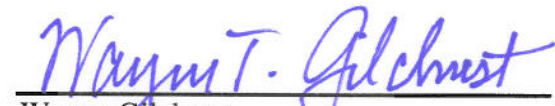
Steve Israel
Member of Congress



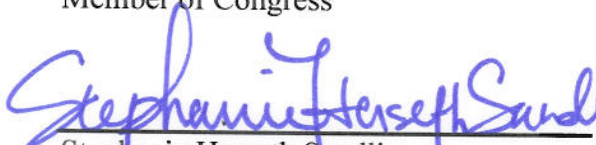
Nita Lowey
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress



Wayne Gilchrest
Member of Congress



Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
Member of Congress



Edolphus Towns
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Gary L. Ackerman
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Carolyn McCarthy
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John Hall
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Jo Ann Emerson
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Stephen Lynch
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Michael McNulty
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Todd R. Platts
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Paul Kanjorski
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John McHugh
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John E. Peterson
John Peterson
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Joe Courtney
Joe Courtney
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Lynn Woolsey
Lynn Woolsey
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Chris Murphy
Chris Murphy
Member of Congress

Steve Kagen
Steve Kagen
Member of Congress

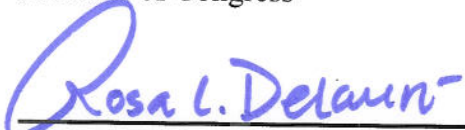
Louise M. Slaughter
Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress



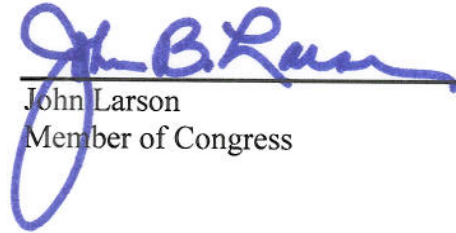
James Oberstar
Member of Congress



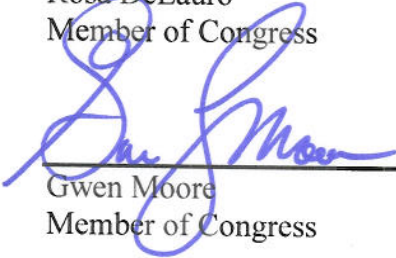
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress



John Larson
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress