April 25, 2013

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Scott
225 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Goodlatte and Congressman Scott,

As representatives of food processors, retailers, restaurateurs, consumers and taxpayers, we strongly support your bill that will establish support for dairy farmers without mandating that they participate in a new government dairy "supply management" program. While we agree with most of what is included in the Dairy Security Act, we applaud your bill for removing the "Dairy Market Stabilization Program" while retaining an effective safety net for dairy farmers.

We have learned from past experience that government management of commodity supply and demand does not work. Restricting milk supplies will increase dairy product costs for consumers and will hurt dairy industry growth, leading to negative long-term consequences for dairy farms, processors, retailers, restaurants, consumers and taxpayers.

Your compromise, bipartisan proposal will help dairy farmers through tough economic times, but removes an unnecessary regulatory burden on dairy businesses and provides opportunity for market expansion, new jobs, and economic growth.

We commend your hard work in developing this important proposal and will work with you to have it adopted by the full House.

Sincerely,

Alabama Grocers Association
American Pizza Community
Arizona Food Marketing Alliance
Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants Association
Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers
Dairy Institute of California
Delaware Food Industry Council
Carolinas Food Industry Council
Food Industry Alliance of New York
Food Marketing Institute
Grocery Manufacturers Association
Hawaii Food Industry Association
Idaho Retailers Association
Illinois Food Retailers Association

International Dairy Foods Association
Kansas Food Dealers Association
Louisiana Retailers Association
Maine Grocers Association
Maryland Retail Association
Massachusetts Food Association
Michigan Grocers Association
Minnesota Grocers Association
Missouri Grocers Association
Montana Food Distributors Association
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Frozen Pizza Institute
National Grocers Association
National Restaurant Association
Nebraska Grocery Industry Association
New Hampshire Grocers Association
New Jersey Food Council
North Dakota Grocers Association
Northeast Dairy Foods Association, Inc.
Retail Grocers Association of Greater Kansas City
South Dakota Retailers Association
Tennessee Grocers and Convenience Store Association
Texas Retailers Association
Utah Food Industry Association
Washington Food Industry Association
Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association
Wisconsin Grocers Association

Cc: Speaker of the House John Boehner
Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi