



To: EPA Transition Team of President-Elect Biden

Subject: IDFA Policy Priorities for 2021

The International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA), based in Washington, DC, represents the nation's dairy manufacturing and marketing industry, which supports more than 3 million jobs that generate \$159 billion in wages and \$620 billion in overall economic impact for the United States. IDFA members include a range dairy processing companies, dairy farmer cooperatives, numerous food retailers, suppliers, and other companies. Together they represent approximately 90 percent of the milk, cultured products, cheese, ice cream, infant formula and dairy ingredients produced and marketed in the United States and sold throughout the world. IDFA members are proud to provide safe, nutritious and sustainable dairy foods to people of all ages, everywhere.

Environmental Protection Agency

A. EPA regulations should be science-based, reasonable and complimentary to existing dairy industry sustainability commitments. Considering the dairy industry's leadership in adopting measurable sustainability goals and implementing sustainable farming and processing practices, revisions to EPA regulations should be reasonable, science-based and not conflict with or undermine the industry-led sustainable practices.

Background: The dairy industry is committed to a Net Zero Initiative, an industrywide effort to help U.S. dairy farms of all sizes and geographies implement new technologies and adopt economically viable practices. Leveraging a rigorous third-party reviewed materiality assessment, the industry prioritized the most pressing areas of environmental sustainability as the foundation for its goals, including becoming carbon neutral or better, optimizing water use while maximizing recycling, and improving water quality by optimizing utilization of manure and nutrients. With a change of leadership and priorities, EPA is expected to revise key regulations related to clean air, climate change and water which are expected to increase costs and regulatory burdens on farming and food processing. EPA should consider those commitments and ensure that future regulations do not undermine the dairy industry's efforts to achieve its sustainability goals.