



News Release

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"Connecting Cows, Cooperatives, Capitol Hill, and Consumers"

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NMPF Urges Senate to Approve Tom Vilsack as Agriculture Secretary

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA – In a letter sent today to members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, the National Milk Producers Federation urged senators to review and quickly approve former Iowa governor Tom Vilsack as the nation's next agriculture secretary. The Agriculture Committee has a hearing scheduled on Wednesday, Jan. 14, to review Vilsack's nomination.

In the letter to Agriculture Committee, NMPF pointed out that the looming financial crisis affecting many dairy farmers calls for a "strong, learned hand" at the USDA.

"Low prices and high input costs are putting tremendous strain on dairy farmers, and we are counting on the USDA to be proactive in the face of this challenge," NMPF wrote. "These critical times we are facing in the dairy industry demand more than ever that USDA demonstrate strong and skillful leadership in the face of this challenge to help see dairy farmers through this very dire situation."

NMPF wrote that Vilsack's two terms of service as governor of Iowa are good preparation for assuming the leadership reins at USDA.

"As the chief executive of one of the most rural, and most agriculturally-oriented states in America, Gov. Vilsack will be a quick study on many of the issues for which USDA is responsible," NMPF wrote.

For a full copy of the letter, visit NMPF's website at www.nmpf.org.

The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), based in Arlington, VA, develops and carries out policies that advance the well being of dairy producers and the cooperatives they own. The members of NMPF's 31 cooperatives produce the majority of the U.S. milk supply, making NMPF the voice of more than 40,000 dairy producers on Capitol Hill and with government agencies. For more on NMPF's activities, visit our website at www.nmpf.org.

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