



September 4, 2024

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Jamie L. Whitten Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington DC, 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

Under your leadership USDA has advanced an impressive record of support and regulatory improvements for the U.S. organic industry. The Organic Transition Initiative and three substantive National Organic Program rulemakings during your tenure will have lasting effects on the organic community as the marketplace continues to grow and evolve.

The department has also been responsive to global supply chain shocks and inflationary pressures that severely disrupted the organic livestock sector.

A commitment of \$104 million for the Organic Dairy Market Assistance Program (ODMAP) and a subsequent sign-up in 2023 has been hugely impactful for small organic dairy farms in the U.S. However, the reality is the initial sign-up of 2023 only spent-out around \$20 million and while timely and necessary, these payments did not adequately reflect the cost dynamics in organic dairy.

The USDA Farm Service Agency leadership recognized this dynamic and has made clear to stakeholders as well as members of Congress that adjustments would be made and another ODMAP sign-up for 2024 was imminent. This commitment inspired hope and confidence in the organic dairy community that USDA was listening to the challenges on-farm and an additional round of support could be expected to enhance the vitality of organic dairy farms.

We receive weekly if not daily inquiries from organic dairy farmers on the status of the program. **The need remains apparent in the organic dairy community, and we implore you to bring all focus and attention to making a 2024 ODMAP sign-up a reality.**

We stand ready to applaud progress on ODMAP and to ensure organic dairy farmers are aware of the opportunity and support provided by this administration.

Sincerely,

Matthew Dillon  
Co-CEO  
Organic Trade Association

Tom Chapman  
Co-CEO  
Organic Trade Association

Organization and Business Co-Signers  
Alexandre Family Farms  
Aurora Organic

California Certified Organic Farmers  
Horizon Organic  
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association  
Maple Hill Creamery  
Marbleseed  
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance  
Northeast Organic Family Farm Partnership  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York  
Northeast Organic Farmer Association of Vermont  
Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association  
Oregon Tilth  
Organic Farmers Association  
Organic Farming Research Foundation  
Organic Trade Association  
Organic Valley  
Painterland Sisters  
Pennsylvania Certified Organic  
Stonyfield Organic  
Strauss Family Creamery  
Westby Creamery  
Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance

CC:

Jenny Lester Moffitt, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs  
Zach Ducheneaux, Administrator for Farm Service Agency  
John Berge, Acting Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs