

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 423 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, TARTAGLIONE, TEPLITZ, BOSCOLA,
BARTOLOTTA, GREENLEAF, FONTANA, BREWSTER, GORDNER, KILLION,
COSTA, SABATINA, MENSCH AND WARD, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Strongly urging the United States Department of Agriculture to
2 use all the resources at its disposal to provide financial
3 assistance to dairy farmers and to manage milk production
4 levels.

5 WHEREAS, Dairy farming as a family business has long been
6 woven into this nation's history; and

7 WHEREAS, Farm milk prices have dropped 40% since 2014, due to
8 both an increase in United States production levels and changes
9 in the European Union's regulation of milk production; and

10 WHEREAS, In many dairy market regions of the United States,
11 dairy farmers are facing similar margin shortfalls while still
12 adjusting to the new changes in dairy support programs from the
13 Agricultural Act of 2014; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the Center for Dairy Excellence, in
15 2015, this Commonwealth lost nearly 500 dairy farms; and

16 WHEREAS, Currently, 6,720 dairy farms are located in this
17 Commonwealth, representing 16% of all dairy farms across the
18 nation; and

1 WHEREAS, Dairy farmers, who are a key part of the
2 agricultural community and the economy, are in greater need of
3 stability and support as they face lower milk prices which many
4 times are below the actual cost of production; and

5 WHEREAS, The Secretary of Agriculture has the authority,
6 under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act to expand and
7 maintain United States domestic markets; and

8 WHEREAS, By taking such action, the United States Department
9 of Agriculture can make an immediate market injection to
10 directly and equally support struggling dairy farmers
11 nationwide; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 strongly urge the United States Department of Agriculture to use
14 all the resources at its disposal to provide financial
15 assistance to dairy farmers and to manage milk production
16 levels; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
18 United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, United
19 States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue,
20 S.W., Washington, DC 20250.