

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 4, 2001

Mae S. Schmidle, Chairman  
Northeast Dairy Compact Commission  
64 Main Street, Room 21  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Dear Chairman Schmidle:

As the September 30<sup>th</sup> expiration date approaches, the House and Senate continue to educate members and generate support for dairy compacts. Before the September deadline, it is our goal to pass legislation that would re-authorize the Northeast dairy compact, ratify a Southern Compact, and provide pre-authorization for a Pacific Northwest Compact and an Inter-Mountain Compact.


On May 14th, 2001, the House of Representatives introduced dairy compact legislation, H.R. 1827. In the coming weeks, the Senate will introduce a companion bill to H.R. 1827. Like the House bill, the Senate bill will exhibit broad, bi-partisan support.

Senator Leahy, upon assuming chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee, plans to hold a hearing on dairy compacts. This will provide an important opportunity to defend the merits of compacts and highlight the record of success that the New England Dairy Compact has enjoyed. While this hearing is likely to be contentious, we believe that the merits of compacts, as demonstrated by the New England Dairy Compact, will illustrate the importance of compacts to consumers, processors, and producers.

We are hopeful that the Compact Commission will continue to provide Congress with valuable information on the New England Dairy Compact as we prepare for the hearing. The presentation of this information will be vital to our cause as we make the strong argument for dairy compacts.

We commend the Compact Commission on its success, and we will work to see that New England continues to benefit from the Compact.

Sincerely,



Senator James Jeffords



Senator Patrick Leahy