



NORTHEAST DAIRY COMPACT RESOLUTION

The Sierra Club's Northeast Regional Conservation Committee hereby resolves our support for the passage of the legislation re-authorizing and expanding the Northeast Dairy Compact.

WHEREAS, the Northeast Dairy Compact, passed in the 1996 Farm Bill, has proven to be a model of success, demonstrating that states can work cooperatively on behalf of farmers and consumers to achieve fair and stable milk prices; and

WHEREAS, the interests of all the citizens of our region and the nation are served when local dairy farms remain intact and able to maintain a continuous supply of fresh milk to neighboring communities and cities; and

WHEREAS, dairy farms are essential to regional rural communities and their character, preserving open spaces, sculpting the landscape, providing the land base of a diversity of recreational pursuits, and providing a major draw for tourist industries; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that dairy compacts help to slow the loss of our rural communities and that farms, in preserving open spaces, act as natural buffers between densely populated areas and sensitive environmental lands such as forests and wetlands, as well as providing natural filters for water runoff and habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Club supports the maintenance of viable, responsible agriculture that benefits the public interest while providing environmental and social benefits; and

WHEREAS, strengthening farms and rural communities serves the public good by helping regions hold on to their essential and unique character and support the physical and economic well-being of communities by returning innumerable benefits to the public interest; and

WHEREAS, dairy farms, and associated suppliers, marketers, processors and retailers, are an integral component of the region's economy, providing economic stability to rural communities by benefiting feed stores, farm equipment suppliers and maintenance workers, farm supply stores, local banks and insurance companies, construction trades; and

WHEREAS, dairy enhances the quality of our environment, our economy and the quality of our lives, both locally and nationally;

Be it resolved that: we, the member chapters of the Northeast Regional Conservation Committee (NERCC), support the passage of legislation re-authorizing and expanding the Northeast Dairy Compact. Member chapters: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Atlantic Canada.

Approved May 2001.