



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

November 1, 2022

The Honorable Jared Huffman
U.S. Representative
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike McGuire
State Senator
1303 10th Street, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jim Wood
Assemblymember
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0002

RE: Financial Aid for Western United States Organic Dairies Due to
Historic Drought Conditions and Unsustainable Feed Costs

Dear Representative Huffman, Assemblymember Wood and Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to urgently request your support in securing state and federal aid for dairies in the Western United States, including in the County of Humboldt.

Due to the historic drought and associated dramatic increases in feed costs, many dairies throughout the region are expecting severe financial losses in 2022 and 2023 and are at risk of going out of business.

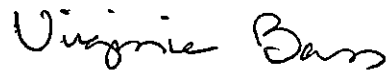
Humboldt County currently has approximately 69 organic dairies; all severely impacted by these unsustainable feed costs. Without targeted assistance in the form of emergency funding, we could lose many of these agricultural producers forever.

The on the ground situation is dire. Feed providers indicate that hay and grain supplies in the Western United States will be in dangerously short supply as the regional drought persists. Many organic dairy farmers predict that they will need to shut down their farming operations in the next 6 to 9 months if the financial status quo remains.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss opportunities for supporting dairies through this unprecedented drought-fueled crisis. It is imperative that we mobilize state and/or federal funding assistance as soon as possible before the organic dairy industry faces a major catastrophe.

Thanks for your consideration of this very important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia Bass".

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

VB:kh