

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA MILK BOARD**

IN RE: :
 :
OVER ORDER PREMIUM HEARING :
ALL MILK MARKETING AREAS :
MAY 7, 2025 :

The Department of Agriculture intends to call Secretary of Agriculture Russell C. Redding to testify on its behalf at the above-referenced hearing. Similar to his testimony at the previous several Over-Order Premium hearings, Secretary Redding is expected to testify that while the Department does not oppose the proposal by the Pennsylvania State Grange to maintain current \$1.00 per hundredweight Over-Order Premium for another six months, that position is underscored with a clear message that systemic reform is needed and must be addressed soon.

It is becoming clear that support for the current system will continue to erode. The Department believes that a new system must distribute premium dollars uniformly among all Pennsylvania dairy farmers, does not charge consumers substantially more than what is paid to dairy farmers, and does not provide economic incentive for mechanisms that lower or avoid premium payments to Pennsylvania producers for Class I milk. The Department pledges to stay at the table to help accomplish these goals. We look forward to working with the General Assembly as legislation works its way through the process. But we do not want parties to lose the sense of urgency that has to drive this need for change.

Respectfully Submitted,



John H. Howard, Chief Counsel
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture