IDFA
International
Dairy Foods Association

Senator Joe Pittman
350 Main Capitol
Senate Box 203041
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3041

Senator Jay Costa
535 Main Capitol
Senate Box 203043
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3043

Representative Matthew D. Bradford
110 Main Capitol Building
P.O. Box 202070
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2070

Representative Jesse Topper
423 Main Capitol Building
P.O. Box 202078
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2078

Dear Leader Pittman, Minority Leader Costa, Leader Bradford and Minority Leader Topper,

The International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) and its member companies write to express their support for Senate Bill 481 that will increase permitted hauling weights for fluid milk. We urge its expeditious passage by the General Assembly.

IDFA represents the nation's dairy manufacturing and marketing industry, which supports more than 3.05 million jobs that generate $52 billion in direct wages and $779.45 billion in overall economic impact. IDFA's diverse membership ranges from multinational organizations to single-plant companies, from dairy companies and cooperatives to food retailers and suppliers, all on the cutting edge of innovation and sustainable business practices. Together, they represent most of the milk, cheese, ice cream, yogurt and cultured products, and dairy ingredients produced and marketed in the United States and sold throughout the world.

Senate Bill 481 would allow milk haulers to obtain a permit to move milk between farms and processing plants at weights up to 117,000 pounds, provided trucks are equipped with seven axles to better distribute weight and reduce wear on roadways. In addition, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, or local jurisdictions, would be able to identify specific routes for trucks to follow to ensure that heavier hauling is only occurring on roads and bridges that can support these weights. Additionally, the allowance to obtain permits to move milk at up to 117,000 pounds would lead to fewer trucks on the road, resulting in reduced fuel consumption and road impacts.

Dairy is the backbone of the state's agricultural economy with dairy farms contributing more than $11 billion in annual revenue. IDFA member companies rely on a steady supply of fresh milk to make safe and nutritious dairy foods. Increased hauling weights for fluid milk will create greater efficiency in every aspect of the dairy supply chain.

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We appreciate your support for Senate Bill 481 and ask for an affirmative vote. IDFA would be happy to provide you with any additional information you may need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

International Dairy Foods Association

Clover Farms Dairy

Dairy Farmers of America (DFA)

Galliker Dairy Company

Hershey's Ice Cream

Maola Local Dairies

Turner Dairy Farms

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Making a Difference for Dairy