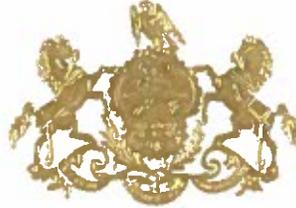


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**MICHELE BROOKS**  
STATE SENATOR, 50TH DISTRICT



**Senate of Pennsylvania**

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March 12, 2018

Dean's Dairy  
1858 Oneida Lane  
Sharpsville, PA 16150

Dear Dean's Dairy:

I am writing on behalf of the many hard-working dairy farmers in my district and throughout Pennsylvania, who are the heart and soul of our communities, our Commonwealth and our cherished agricultural heritage. They are also a key component of our local and state economy.

I have been hearing from many dairy farmers and elected officials who are distraught about your recently announced decision to cancel contracts with many local dairies, giving farmers who have devoted their entire lives to their farms only 90 days to find a market for their milk.

This decision is dramatic and frankly, life-altering, for these farmers who have spent their entire lives putting milk on our tables, caring for their animals and contributing to the industry. Their homes, families and businesses rely on you. The month of May will be upon them before they know it.

I fully understand that this situation is complex –that competition is stiff in the marketplace, and that supplies are increasing while demand is decreasing. I also understand that Walmart is building its own processing plant. While these factors are critical, I respectfully request that you please give serious and positive consideration to advancing any solution that could remedy this situation or, at a minimum, extend the timeline for contract cancellations until at least the end of the year. Rest assured that I stand ready to assist you in any way.

It is vital that we protect this industry and give farmers the time they need to plan and adjust to these sweeping and significant changes. Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Brooks".

Michele Brooks  
Senator, 50<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Hon. Russell Redding, Secretary of Agriculture