March 5, 2014

Senator Tutvedt, Chairman
Economic Affairs Interim Committee
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Senator Tutvedt and Members of the Committee –

We are writing this letter to express our continued support for the "12-Day Rule". This issue is simply about providing high quality product to Montana's consumers. Montana's dairy farmers work tirelessly and are very proud of the high quality milk that they provide to Montana's consumers. Under the 12-Day rule the burden for insuring high quality milk is place on the producers and the processors – where it should be. If the 12-Day rule is removed that burden will be placed squarely on the consumer because producers and processors will no longer have to be diligent about inventory control.

The number of Montana dairies continues to decline. Over the last 12 years we have lost nearly half of our dairy farms. With market share competition from other products such as almond milk and soy milk, it is more critical than ever to provide only the highest quality product. Please do not put at risk a system that works well for Montana dairy farmers, Montana processors, Montana distributors, and most importantly, Montana consumers.

Sincerely,

Clair Griffin	1380 Holloron Rd. Corvallis, MT 59828
Tim Hale	1776 Sutherland Ln Corvallis, MT 59828
Paul Wade	571 Rice Rd Stevensville MT 59870
Dean Noakes	870 Ridge Rd Stevensville mt
David Lewis	Victor Mt.