

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.

The number of Montana dairies continues to decline. Over the last 12 years we have lost nearly half of our dairy farms due primarily to challenges with competing with large corporate dairies and economies of scale. 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,

Senille Dairy Cst Bank, MT
Kinn Ranch Dairy - Lewistown, Mt.
Spring Creek Colony
Deerfield Colony
Scarpier Creek

George Hofer
Peter P. Hofer
James Heath
Peter Stahl
Lynn Hofer