



Legislative Watch

Issues important to today's dairy farmers

Representative Dave Camp Speaks at Townhall Meeting

Dairy farmers and other agricultural producers gathered in Stanton, Mich., to discuss agriculture policies with U.S. Representative Dave Camp (R-Midland). He spoke to the group of approximately 50 attendees about the farm bill and his concerns over governmental demands for more authority over private farm land.

“Our farmers are the best stewards of the land and our laws should respect their work,” Congressman Camp said. “That is why I am pushing a bill that states unequivocally that manure is not considered a hazardous substance or contaminant. Several state and local governments have sued livestock and poultry producers claiming Superfund liability. That is absurd. Equating farms and farmers with toxic waste dumps and spills is insulting.”

Congressman Camp went on to discuss his views on fuel and renewable energy, and later answered questions from the audience.

Jerry Kozak, President and CEO of National Milk Producers Federation also spoke to the group, saying Congressman Camp has long been a supporter of dairy and agriculture in general, noting that while Congressman Camp may not always agree with everything NMPF would like, he's constantly fair and supportive of agriculture. He also pointed out that the congressman sits on the vital Ways and Means Committee, making him directly involved in tax incentives for key matters relating to farming.

MMPA President Ken Nobis also spoke to the group regarding Congressman Camp's support of the dairy industry.



MMPA member Mike Rasmussen of Edmore, welcomes U.S. Rep. Dave Camp (R-Midland) to the townhall meeting.



Approximately 50 farmers and area residents attended the townhall meeting to learn more about Rep. Camp's (R-Midland) views and ask him questions.

“We appreciate Congressman Camp’s dedication to helping support Michigan dairy producers,” Ken said. “His work with domestic policies, tax treatment and consideration of ways to alleviate the considerable energy pressures facing our sector are highly valued among our dairy producers. We look forward to continuing to work with Congressman Camp to parse out the differences to help determine what is genuinely in the best interests of the U.S. dairy industry, particularly its producers, and the businesses and communities relying on their viability.”



Earlier in the day, MMPA and NMPF hosted a fundraiser for U.S. Rep. Dave Camp (R-Midland) at MMPA members John and Karen Weller’s dairy in Middleton. The representative then traveled to Stanton to the townhall meeting. Pictured, from left: Rep. Camp, MMPA President Ken Nobis and MMPA General Manager John Dilland.

WTO Talks Collapse in Geneva; No Resumption of Negotiations Seen in Near Future

Ministers from around the world met for a week and a half, beginning July 21, in Geneva, Switzerland to try to hammer out a new world trade agreement by completing the seven-year-old Doha round of talks.

The effort fell short, however, when developing countries like China and India insisted on securing a right to put in place tariffs even higher than their current levels if certain easily triggered import safeguard levels were met. The U.S. rightly opposed such a demand, refusing to take the world trading system for agricultural products backwards rather than forwards through this agreement. Given the impasse on this issue, as well as developing countries’ reluctance to cut their tariffs on agricultural and industrial products, the talks collapsed.

NMPF staff and NMPF’s Chairman of the WTO Task Force were in Geneva throughout these

talks to represent NMPF and voice dairy producers’ goals and concerns to our negotiators. NMPF has long been actively involved in working with our negotiators on securing progress towards achieving these objectives, but applauded U.S. negotiators for refusing to accept a bad deal for America’s farmers.

Any other action that takes

place with the WTO will not likely happen in the near future, especially with the presidential election in the fall and a new administration taking office early next year. NMPF will continue to remain dedicated to creating balanced trade agreements that will represent new export opportunities and net benefits for U.S. dairy producers.



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