



## Legislative Watch

Issues important to today's dairy farmers

### NMPF Testifies at House Hearing for More U.S. Dairy Exports to Cuba

On March 11, NMPF testified in favor of a recently introduced House bill that would foster additional U.S. agricultural exports to Cuba, and permit open travel for all Americans to that nation.

NMPF Board member John Wilson, who is Sr. Vice President of Marketing & Industry Affairs for Dairy Farmers of America, urged support for the Travel Restriction Reform and Export Enhancement Act (H.R. 4645). The legislation is being championed by House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson and Representative Jerry Moran of Kansas. The legislation presently has 37 additional co-sponsors supporting it.

"NMPF believes that efforts to help regain the exports we lost last year are essential to helping farmers and putting the U.S. dairy industry on a firmer footing going forward," said Wilson. "H.R. 4645 represents one such positive step in the right direction to increase demand for U.S. dairy products."

The bill would establish clarity and predictability regarding the "cash-in-advance" provision of the

Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act (TSREEA) by ensuring its interpretation according to the original intent of Congress to allow for payment in a manner that did not impede trade, while also not offering the extension of credit to Cuba. Prior interpretations of this provision have hampered U.S. dairy exporters' ability to ship product to Cuba in a safe and cost-efficient manner, Wilson said.

The legislation would also remove a costly and unnecessary burden on U.S. agricultural exporters by allowing payment to pass from Cuba directly to U.S. banks in place of the current, more costly requirement that payments be routed through banks in other countries.

In closing, said Wilson, "We look forward to enjoying the impact this legislation would have on our ability to more easily provide the Cuban people and those Americans wishing to travel to Cuba with the nutritious and safe foods that we produce in such abundance here in the United States."



#### Rep. Schauer Hosts Dairy Roundtable

On March 29, 2010, more than 25 dairy farmers and industry representatives participated in a dairy industry roundtable discussion with Congressman Mark Schauer (D-7th) in Jackson, Mich. Topics addressed during the meeting ranged from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, U.S. dairy trade to Cuba, Child Nutrition Act, estate taxes to the promotion assessment on dairy imports. Rep. Schauer serves on the U.S. House Agriculture Committee.

#### "Quality Watch" Receives National Accolades in NCFC Contest

A Quality Watch article, entitled "Don't Sacrifice Quality," authored by MMPA Member Services and Quality Control Director Gary Trimner received second place honors in the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives' Information Fair contest.

Nearly 200 writing and graphic entries from cooperatives across the nation were judged by a panel of professors from the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The winning entries were displayed at NCFC's 81st Annual meeting this February in California.