

**BERNARD SANDERS**  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
VERMONT, AT LARGE

213 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4801  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-4119  
FAX: (202) 225-6780

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1501

COMMITTEES:  
BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES  
GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

1 CHURCH STREET, SECOND FLOOR  
BURLINGTON, VT 05401-4417  
TELEPHONE: (802) 682-6887  
TOLL FREE: (800) 338-6834  
FAX: (802) 682-6870

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 1996

**SANDERS URGES IMMEDIATE CERTIFICATION  
OF NORTHEAST DAIRY COMPACT**

Today, Rep. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) spoke with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, and urged the Secretary to immediately certify that the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact is in the compelling public interest of the Compact states. Sanders is the lead proponent of the Compact in the House of Representatives and has asked for Glickman's support for the Compact on numerous occasions.

The Northeast Dairy Compact allows a board of consumers, farmers, and processors from the Compact states (Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island) to increase the price that dairy farmers in the region receive for their product. It can be implemented once the Secretary of Agriculture finds that it is in the compelling public interest of the Compact states.

The official time period for submitting comments to the Secretary on the compelling public interest in the Compact ends on Monday, June 3, 1996. At any time after June 3rd, the Secretary may make his official finding. Time is of the essence because the Compact is scheduled to terminate once milk marketing orders are consolidated under the provisions of this year's farm bill. The Department of Agriculture has set a target date for consolidation - January 1, 1999.

Sanders said "Considering the state legislatures and governors of all six Compact states support the Compact and almost all of the comments submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture so far are in favor of the Compact, it would be difficult for the Secretary to find that the Compact is not in the Northeast region's compelling public interest. I am doing what I can to ensure that opponents of the Compact do not effectively kill the Compact by delaying Secretary Glickman's finding on this issue. The Compact needs as much time as possible to help farmers in the Northeast get a fair price for their product, to prevent the further loss of small family farms, and to set an example for other regions on how to boost milk prices without unfairly hurting consumers or processors. The bottom line is that hardworking Vermont farmers deserve a better price for their product."

Attached is a follow-up letter Sanders sent to the Secretary.

- 30 -

Contact: Tina Wisell - (802) 862-0697