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House of Representatives  
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**Sanders Praises Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact Vote**

The Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations today passed without recommendation, by a 5 to 5 vote, the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact. Rep. Bernard Sanders, who has helped lead the effort in the House to keep the bill alive, called the vote a "significant victory" in our effort to see this legislation passed and to protect family farmers.

With Congress expected to adjourn on Friday, the bill still faces major opposition in both the Senate and the House and continues to have an uncertain future. Sanders praised Subcommittee Chair John Bryant for his efforts in passing the bill out of committee and the four Democrats and one Republican who voted for it.

Sanders said, "Against tremendous pressure from the dairy processors and all those who want to see farmers receive low prices for their milk, we have managed to keep the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact alive. Whether we will ultimately prevail in the four days that Congress remains in session, given the strong opposition that exists in both the Senate and the House, remains to be seen. But, the bill is still alive and that is what is most important. For the rest of this week, I will be working as hard as I can to garner support for this vitally important piece of legislation."

Danny Smith, Executive Director of the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact Committee, said, "Today's vote was critical in making sure the Compact did not die. Given what we were up against, it was extremely difficult to get the votes that we did, and I'm delighted with our success today. We're going to keep on fighting until the final gavel."

Sanders continued, "The most important argument that I am making is that 6 separate New England legislatures have voted to support the Compact in order to save dairy farming in New England. Six governors - Republican, Democratic and Independent - support this effort. The 12 New England Senators support this legislation as do 23 out of 24 New England Members of Congress. There is a widespread understanding that the federal government is unable to protect our New England dairy farmers who, today, are receiving in real dollars, fifty percent of what they received fifteen years ago for their milk. It is absolutely appropriate that New England itself go forward to protect our family farms for economic, social, and environmental reasons."

Accompanying is a letter that Rep. Sanders provided to each Member of the Subcommittee prior to the mark-up.

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