

**SENATOR
ELDER VOGEL, JR.
47TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

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Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS, CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS, VICE CHAIR
BANKING & INSURANCE
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
TRANSPORTATION

April 10, 2023

School Meals Policy Division
Food and Nutrition Service
P.O. Box 9233
Reston, VA 20195

Dear Food and Nutrition Service, USDA:

As the chairman of the Pennsylvania Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, and on behalf of the Pennsylvania Senate Republican Caucus, I am submitting this letter in support of including 2% and whole milk in the Nutrition Standards for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs and as a Smart Snacks option in the proposed rule *Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guideline for Americans*. Recently, our chamber unanimously adopted Senate Resolution 48, which also urges the inclusion of 2% and whole milk within your proposed rule.

As studies have indicated, whole milk contains no more than 3.5% fat, and one third of milk's fatty acids are Omega-3, which have been linked to many health benefits, including improved heart and brain health, and a lower risk of cancer. This fat is necessary in the daily diet and energy to support cell growth. Other health benefits of milk include improved bone health, lower blood pressure, and reduced risk of cardiovascular disease and Type 2 diabetes.

Because of the critical health benefits that 2% milk and whole milk provide to growing children the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urges the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service to make modifications to the proposed rule and allow the inclusion of 2% and whole milk.

In addition, Pennsylvania has a strong dairy industry which represents a total of \$8.3 billion in direct output with 6,100 dairy farms, which is second in the nation, and Pennsylvania ranks 6th nationally in dairy based on sales; so the impact of additional milk choices in schools would help PA dairy farmers.

Please accept these comments as well as the attached Senate Resolution as our statement in response to the proposed rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elder Vogel Jr".

Elder Vogel, Jr.
Majority Chair, PA Senate Agriculture
& Rural Affairs Committee
47th Senatorial District

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Handwritten signature of Kim Ward in black ink.

Kim Ward
PA Senate President Pro Tempore
39th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Joseph Pittman in black ink.

Joseph Pittman
PA Senate Majority Leader
41st Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Michele Brooks in black ink.

Michele Brooks
50th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of David Argall in blue ink.

David Argall
29th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Ryan Aument in black ink.

Ryan Aument
36th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Lisa Baker in black ink.

Lisa Baker
20th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Linda Schlegel-Culver in black ink.

Linda Schlegel-Culver
27th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of John DiSanto in blue ink.

John DiSanto
15th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Cris Dush in black ink.

Cris Dush
25th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Frank Farry in black ink.

Frank Farry
6th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Chris Gebhard in black ink.

Chris Gebhard
48th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Scott Hutchinson in black ink.

Scott Hutchinson
21st Senatorial District

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Handwritten signature of Wayne Langerholc in blue ink.

Wayne Langerholc
35th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Scott Martin in blue ink.

Scott Martin
13th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Kristin Phillips-Hill in blue ink.

Kristin Phillips-Hill
28th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Greg Rothman in blue ink.

Greg Rothman
34th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Judy Ward in blue ink.

Judy Ward
30th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Daniel Laughlin in blue ink.

Daniel Laughlin
48th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Tracy Pennycuik in blue ink.

Tracy Pennycuik
24th Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Mike Regan in blue ink.

Mike Regan
31st Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Patrick Stefano in blue ink.

Patrick Stefano
32nd Senatorial District

Handwritten signature of Gene Yaw in blue ink.

Gene Yaw
23rd Senatorial District