

**BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA MILK MARKETING BOARD**

**OVER-ORDER PREMIUM  
All Milk Marketing Areas**

**December 6, 2023**

**Rebuttal Testimony of Secretary Russell C. Redding  
Presented on Behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of Agriculture**

**Submitted November 21, 2023**

Dear Chairman Barley and Members of the Board:

My name is Russell C. Redding and I serve as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. I am testifying today on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (“Department”) regarding the level and duration of the Class I Over-Order Premium.

The Department does not oppose the proposal by the Pennsylvania State Grange to maintain the current Over-Order Premium at its current level as we work with industry partners and legislative leaders to find a more equitable solution to the challenges presented by the current structure.

We continue to advocate for a change in structure that provides transparency and equity to both the consumers and farmers and creates a mechanism for us to support the whole of the dairy industry. Given the complexities of structuring such a reform, the Department believes it is important to maintain the current premium while legislative solutions are articulated.

As we have stated repeatedly in our previous testimony, that system must distribute premium dollars uniformly among all Pennsylvania dairy farmers, it must not charge consumers substantially more than what is paid to dairy farmers, and must not provide incentives by which payment of premium dollars can be avoided by moving milk across state lines. We have expressed those goals to

legislative leaders and the dairy industry, and will continue to do so until we see meaningful changes to the current system.

Thank you for consideration of our position in this matter.