

All:

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) has attempted in earnest to arrange informative witnesses and evidence to begin the process outlined in the both Bulletin No. 1542 dated April 18, 2018 and Bulletin No. 1543 dated April 24, 2018. I know that most people as sitting back and waiting. I acknowledge that as the “petitioner” there is a certain expectation of PDA to kick it off, even though these public hearings are really listening sessions with no direct examination or cross examination.

- Our first preference was to present testimony of one or more of the following, Dr. Novakovic, Dr. Stephenson or Dr. Nicholson, which would have been in accordance with the reports incorporated into the petition. Unfortunately, that has not worked out due to their schedule conflicts. Therefore, we intend to present that testimony on May 16 or a subsequent hearing. The primary report to be addressed will, of course, be “Analysis of the Impacts of the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board on Fluid Milk Retail Prices and Processing Volumes.” Other facts and opinions from the other incorporated reports may be covered as necessary.
- The Secretary himself has a scheduling conflict which prevents him from being present and testifying. He may testify at one of the later sessions.
- On behalf of PDA, I will present a “walk-through” of our petition with some explanatory background and history, as I aware of it, of some of ideas and points raised in the petition and particularly the enumerated paragraphs (15, 16, 17 18) in Bulletin 1542. I may go beyond that limited scope (paragraph 15, 16, 17 18) in an effort to give a well-rounded summation and orientation to the entire petition. Obviously, the approach of that walk-through will be geared a bit more for public consumption of all those “laypersons” in attendance, or otherwise reading a transcript, as might be the custom or usual expectation of a formal adjudicative PMMB proceeding on a petition.
- In addition, we have arranged for attendance and testimony from Anthony Gigliotti of Boyer’s Food Markets and Andrea Karns of Karns Quality Foods, and a brief outline prepared by each is attached.

The PDA reserves the right to participate and present witnesses and evidence on all topics on May 16 or any subsequent sessions.

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