

October 31, 2005

The Honourable Leona Dombrowsky
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Government of Ontario
11th Floor
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1B3

Dear Minister:

RE: Dairy Labelling Amendments to Bill C-27

This is in response to your letter of October 25 to the Dairy Processors Association of Canada (DPAC/ATLC) regarding these proposed amendments and the information that your staff are working with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on their interpretation and proposed implementation.

Your staff should be aware now of the CFIA's evidence presented in Ottawa on October 17th. The evidence presented by CFIA and comments by members of the Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food confirm a number of things:

- The proposed amendments were made at the specific request of the Dairy Farmers of Canada;
- There was no consultation with other stakeholders concerning the amendments;
- The amendments were not fully discussed by the Standing Committee;
- The amendments would operate to restrict trade in products that compete with standardized dairy products; *and*
- The amendments would not improve the clarity of food product labelling which was the Standing Committee's stated intent.

Also attached for your information are two columns by Neil Reynolds in the Globe and Mail on Wednesday, October 26 and on Friday, October 28 commenting on that hearing and an open letter from several associations including DPAC/ATLC representing the food industry in Canada expressing their opposition to the amendments.

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In addition, the dairy processing industry disagrees with the view expressed in your letter that there is "a broader issue regarding the lack of national standards for labelling dairy substitutes and imitation products.

We welcome your comments on this information and we trust that you will be meeting with the Ontario Dairy Council in the near future to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

original signed by

Don Jarvis
President and CEO
DPAC/ATLC

c.c. Food Industry Coalition
DPAC/ATLC Board of Directors
Tom Kane, Ontario Dairy Council