

July 2, 2018

Robert N. Barley, Chairman  
Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board  
110 Agriculture Building  
2301 N. Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

**RE: Hearing of July 2 to consider amendments to 7 Pa. Code § 143.31 to extend the period of required notice before termination of dealer-producer contracts**

Dear Chairman Barley:

Pursuant to Bulletin 1544, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau offers written comment, regarding the aforementioned amendment to Regulation 143.31 being considered by the Board.

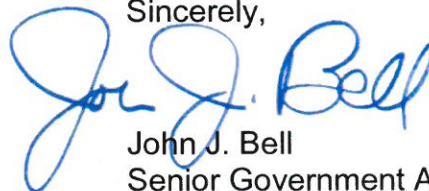
Farm Bureau supports amendments that will extend significantly the time that notice must be given to producers before dealer contracts may be terminated. The regulation's 28-day period for required notice is inadequate for those producers receiving notice of termination to find alternative markets for their milk, especially in this period when milk supplies regionally are out of balance.

Many Pennsylvania producers have held stable, continuous and long-term relationships with dealers in marketing and procurement of producer milk. Because of this, few producers have the personal means or experience to immediately find and negotiate with other prospective dealers for marketing their milk.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has offered a recommendation for extension of the minimum period of required notice to 90 days. Given current marketing conditions, we believe a 90-day minimum period for prior notice is a reasonable balance for both dealers who are challenged themselves in handling current volumes of supplied milk and producers who will struggle to immediately find alternative sources for their produced milk. Farm Bureau supports Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's recommended period for prior notice, and encourages the Board to amend Regulation 143.31 to extend the minimum period for required prior notice to 90 days.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



John J. Bell  
Senior Government Affairs Counsel

cc: Board Members  
Timothy Moyer  
Douglas Eberly