



Washington State Dairy Federation  
P.O. Box 1768  
Elma, WA. 98541

March 17, 2009

James Daugherty  
Seattle Milk Market Administrator  
1930 220<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Suite 102  
Bothell, WA 98021-8471

Dear Mr. Daugherty:

We are writing in regards to your notice of January 27, 2009 to *Handlers and interested parties, Pacific Northwest Marketing Order 24*. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of your agency on this important issue over the past several months. The current deadline for comments is March 17, 2009. This date is an extension from the original comment deadline of February 17, 2009.

We would like to request an additional 180-day extension. We understand the unusual nature of this request, but it is the strong opinion of our board that the best solutions are developed by taking the time to find solutions acceptable to everyone involved. These past two months have been productive and filled with numerous discussions among dairy producers. The commonality has been the search for "what the future should look like" for farmers and processors in the Pacific Northwest. There are numerous problems facing our farms today, not the least of which is record low prices for milk this month. Challenging times like these require new thinking and a common vision for the future. We believe the work to find consensus has only just started, and it will take more time for producer organizations to find better, comprehensive options for improving producer prices.

We graciously hope you will grant this request. We also hope we can bring forth either a consensus-based proposal on this narrow subject of pooling performance or find a common direction, more broadly based, that would render this narrow process and scope mute.

Thank you very much for your additional consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call at 360.482.3485.

Respectfully,

  
Wm. Jay Gordon  
Executive Director