

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATORS GRANT, MAZUR, MILLS,
HOGUES, MARINELLI, HARDWICK, LOUGHRAN,
RATH, McCRACKEN, DIXON & LORIGO**

RE: Calling on the U.S. House of Representatives to Pass the Bi-Partisan Farm Bill Already Approved in the U.S. Senate

WHEREAS, unless Congress takes immediate and decisive action, the subsidies for America's dairy farmers will end December 31, 2012, potentially doubling the cost of milk and related dairy products in the New Year; and

WHEREAS, this reversion to federal farm policies that date back to the 1940's will cause tremendous economic hardship to family farmers and our rural communities, as well as result in escalating costs for all food purveyors – from proprietary restaurants to public facilities like schools, day care centers, nursing homes and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, above all, this financial burden will be passed onto American consumers and taxpayers who will bear the real and painful cost of the failure of Congress to act; and

WHEREAS, of particular concern is the negative impact of these price hikes on the nutritional needs of our most vulnerable populations – our children and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a Democrat, and Sen. Olympia Snowe, a Republican, have co-sponsored an important amendment to the Farm Bill which would reform dairy pricing to spare dairy farmers from price volatility that threatens their ability to stay in business; and

WHEREAS, the amendment – S.1481 – would allow dairy industry groups to present milk pricing reforms to the USDA for consideration in a public hearing process, and to order the Secretary of Agriculture to release the Department's final proposal to Congress; and

WHEREAS, the expiration of current commodity supports on December 31, 2012 is fast approaching, yet the Farm Bill has been languishing in the House agriculture committee for months; and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important that the dairy pricing reform measure remain intact in whatever version of the omnibus Farm Bill is enacted, as dairy farming is such a critical component of New York State's farm and jobs economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature request that the U.S. House of Representatives take immediate action to pass the Farm Bill that was already approved by the U.S. Senate and send it to the President for signature; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be conveyed to the President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and the WNY Delegation to the House of Representatives.

FISCAL IMPACT: Devastating impact to the dairy industry and substantial negative impact to businesses, consumers and taxpayers.