



**NATIONAL  
FARMERS  
UNION**

January 4, 2010

Legal Policy Section  
Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
450 5<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Suite 11700  
Washington, DC 20001

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Farmers Union (NFU) is pleased to submit the nomination of Doug Caruso as a candidate for the United States Department of Agriculture and Department of Justice workshop being held re the dairy industry on June 7, 2010 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Mr. Caruso has worked in the dairy industry since 1973 and has witnessed considerable consolidation and concentration in the number of farms, handlers, as well as an increase in the size of dairy farms. He spent 12 years working for a Wisconsin based farmer-owned milk marketing cooperative that grew to serve about 6,000 dairy farmers in the 7 upper Midwest states. Caruso also spent 7 years as the CEO of a cheese manufacturing company, the Wisconsin Farmers Union Specialty Cheese Company, LLC.

Doug Caruso served as the Wisconsin State Executive Director at the Farm Service Agency from 1993-2001. During his tenure Caruso served approximately 100,000 farmers and rural landowners through a network of sixty county offices. From 1989 to 1993, he worked as State Director for United States Senator Herb Kohl (D-Wisconsin) and before that as general manager and communications director for the nation's sixth largest farmer-owned milk marketing cooperative.

While at FSA in Wisconsin, Caruso participated in multi-agency USDA initiatives and worked on the initial implementation of the Milk Income Loss Contract payment program in 2000. He led his state to develop labor and client service practices that were adopted by other states and the national office, and limited loan delinquencies to among the lowest in the nation. During his tenure at FSA, Caruso engaged producers of color in the design and delivery of an employee training program to enhance outreach to historically underserved farmers.

It is clear that Mr. Caruso has a clear working knowledge of the dairy industry from the producer, cooperative, regulatory, and policy angles and would make an excellent candidate for the dairy workshop.

Thank you for your consideration of Doug Caruso as a candidate for the USDA/DOJ workshop on the dairy industry.

Sincerely,

Roger Johnson, President  
National Farmers Union

RJ:cg