



**Executive Committee Meeting
Burlington, Vermont
August, 5, 2009**

**RESOLUTION URGING INCLUSION OF NORTHEAST
REPRESENTATIVES ON FEDERAL COMMISSION ON DAIRY POLICY**

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States included the development of a National Commission on Dairy in the H.R. 2419, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill); and

WHEREAS, Secretary Vilsack, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has committed to forming an advisory group to study national dairy policy and formulate recommendations for action at the federal level; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast has lost more than 30% of its dairy farmers in the last decade; and

WHEREAS, Northeast states have been innovative and active in responding to the continuing volatility in the pricing of milk with programs providing direct producer support, farmland preservation, business planning assistance; and

WHEREAS, many of these efforts have been hampered by downturns in state budgets and continuing flaws in federal milk policy;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Council of State Governments' Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC), and its affiliate the Northeast States Association for Agricultural Stewardship (NSAAS), urge the Secretary to establish the National Commission on Dairy and for the U.S. Congress to provide adequate funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CSG/ERC and NSAAS urge the inclusion of New York State Senator Darrel Aubertine as a state legislator and farmer member; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CSG/ERC and NSAAS urge the inclusion of former New Hampshire Secretary of Agriculture Steve Taylor as an executive branch, farmer and private industry member; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CSG/ERC and NSAAS urge the inclusion of Massachusetts State Representative Dan Bosley as a consumer representative and financial policy member on any national commission that is formed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CSG/ERC and NSAAS urge that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture pattern the Advisory Commission on Dairy Policy as the 2008 Farm Bill legislated the Federal Dairy Commission, which mandates geographic diversity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above representatives, recommended to seats on the National Dairy Commission also be recommended to Secretary Vilsack for inclusion on the National Dairy Advisory Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House Agriculture Committees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each member of the U.S. Senate and House that represent the states that comprise the CSG/ERC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to the chairs of the Northeast states House and Senate committees that oversee agriculture and rural affairs.