

May 20, 2019

Dear Senator McGuire and Assemblymember Wood,

We write to you with concern about funding for the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP). Most of us are AMMP grant recipients or hope to be, and we are alarmed by Governor Newsom's proposed cuts to the program. AMMP has numerous benefits to the dairy producers in your district, and we ask you to take a strong stand for us.

The AMMP grants help us to make important capital improvements that many of us have been wanting to make for years. The upgrades funded by AMMP grants make our operations more efficient, cleaner, healthier for the cows, our workers and our communities, and can improve the environment overall.

Many of us are struggling to stay in business in California with the depressed price of milk. Furthermore, the regulations that may come on line when SB 1383 is implemented have us worried. This program allows us to help meet the goals for SB 1383 while staying in business it's a win-win.

The success and popularity of AMMP is evident in the most recent funding round. CDFA received 91 applications from dairies and livestock operations, seeking \$54.6 million in funding, far exceeding the \$19 million to \$33 million in available funds. And in the first two grant rounds, the \$31 million available funded only about half of the applicants. Demand and interest in the program are growing, and a drastic drop in funding as proposed by the Governor will slow momentum.

Governor Newsom has proposed just \$35 million for both AMMP and dairy digesters, about one-third of this year's budget. AMMP has historically received only about 20 percent of the dairy methane funds, which would amount to only \$7 million under the Governor's proposal. This might fund a dozen dairies; in this last grant cycle, 18 applied from the North Coast alone.

We ask you, in your role as members of the Budget Committees, to be a champion on behalf of your constituents for increased AMMP funding. Specifically, we ask that you advocate for \$35 million for AMMP to begin to address the demand and reach of the program which works for the vast majority of the state's dairy producers throughout the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

23 dairy producers from 5 California counties