June 11, 1955

Honorable Ezra Taft Benson  
Secretary of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have the letter of June 3rd addressed to me by Acting Assistant Secretary True D. Horse, in response to my letters of May 18th and May 31st in regard to the holding of hearings on the extension of the New York milk marketing area.

I appreciate very much the courtesy of your reply and the assurance that you are giving active consideration to the scheduling of hearings.

I would like you to have available and to give consideration to certain facts which have been presented to me in regard to this matter -- facts bearing on the inter-relationship between the New York milk marketing area and the New Jersey market.

I am advised that producers located in New Jersey supply only 50% of the milk consumed in New Jersey. The producers supplying the other 50% are located in New York and Pennsylvania. These figures alone seem to indicate the desirability of including at least Northern New Jersey in the New York milk marketing area.

I am further advised that of the 2,892 producers living in the dairy sections of Northern New Jersey, 1,321 are at present delivering milk to plants which are operating under New York's Order No. 27.

There are 10,566 producers living in New York and Pennsylvania whose milk is approved for marketing in New Jersey. Of these, 1,666 live in Pennsylvania and 5,898 are New Yorkers. These New York producers shipping to New Jersey are next-door neighbors of producers whose milk is approved only for shipment to New York City.
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These figures, too, indicate to me the desirability of having a single order embracing New York and, at least, Northern New Jersey.

The geographic lines which separate states are certainly artificial with respect to the production and marketing of milk. The producers of each of the three states I have mentioned have mutual and inter-related interests and the views of each must be reflected in the milk orders affecting each of these states. I certainly do not think that Milk Order No. 27 is the sole concern of New York milk producers.

New York and New Jersey have a long and constructive history of cooperation on mutual problems. I need only cite the Interstate Sanitation Commission, the Waterfront Commission and the Port of New York Authority. I am sure that this cooperation can be constructively extended into the milk marketing field and that an order can be worked out successfully reconciling the interests of the producers and consumers of the two states.

I submit these views to you for such consideration as you can give them.

As I wrote to you in my letter of May 31st, I feel strongly that hearings should be held promptly and that an order embracing New York and at least Northern New Jersey be speedily issued. It seems obvious to me that they are one market area.

Yours very sincerely,