June 10, 1942

Hon. Herbert H. Lehman
Governor of New York
Albany, N. Y.

My dear Governor:

With very real regret I noted in the papers sometime ago your statement to the effect that you would not be a candidate for the office of Governor of the State of New York.

As our mutual good friend, Ed Eastman, would say - a man deserves commendation for the good work he has done while he is still around to hear it. So I would like to take this opportunity of saying just a few things that I very deeply feel and believe.

You became Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York the same year that I was elected President of the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association. Consequently so far as the dairy problems of New York State are concerned, our paths and responsibilities have been somewhat parallel.

At times it has been my responsibility to place the milk problems before you and in your hands and now I want to say how well I think you have handled them. In my opinion you have been conscientious, tactful, firm as occasion required it and always constructive. I know that at times you have resisted tremendous pressures, some of which might have been in the direction of using milk as a political football, something which I have always had the feeling that you have consistently refused to do.

I know how much you had to do with placing the constructive milk legislation which the State now has upon the statute books. I know how much you questioned the wisdom of the passage of the original Milk Control Law and how consistently you worked, both personally and through your appointees, to make it work effectively. I know the personal interest that you took and the personal efforts that you made to secure our present sound milk legislation.
Not the least of your contributions to agriculture and the dairy problems of the State was your appointment of the present Commissioner of Agriculture, who I think has handled problems which you have entrusted to him tactfully, firmly and with more understanding of people, organizations and the problems than any other man who has ever occupied that position.

I am sure that agriculture as a whole, and dairying in particular, will feel that when you leave the Governorship agriculture will have come to the end of a period of fourteen years during which it has had a real friend in the Governor's chair.

In whatever service you may become engaged, whether public or private, you will go to that service with the respect and friendship of all of the sound leadership of agriculture of this State.

Sincerely yours,

Fred W. Leader

President

FHS:MW