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ALVIN R. OTT

State Representative
3rd Assembly District

Assembly Agriculture Committee

MEMO

To: Members of the Assembly Agriculture Committee

From: Representative Al Ott, Chair

Date: January 30, 1995

The following clearinghouse rule has been referred to the Assembly Agriculture Committee:

Rule No. 94-126: An ORDER to create chapter ATCP 83, relating to dairy product advertising and labeling.

If you would like a copy of the rule, please contact Kim in my office at 266-5831. The deadline for committee action on this rule is March 1, 1995. If you are interested in requesting a hearing and/or submitting comments, please do so prior to that date.



Office:
318 North
P.O. Box 8953, State Capitol
(608) 266-5831

**Toll-free
Legislative Hotline:**
1 (800) 362-9472

Home:
P.O. Box 112
Forest Junction, Wisconsin 54123
(414) 989-1240

Ranking Member: Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Affairs / **Member:** Environmental Resources; Labor and Job Training



Wisconsin State Assembly

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

February 24, 1995

State Representative Alvin Ott, Chair
Assembly Committee on Agriculture
318 North, State Capitol
Madison, WI 54708

Dear Chairman Ott:

It our understanding that an administrative rule of importance to the agricultural community has been referred to your committee. Clearinghouse Rule 94-126, which defines procedures for labeling rBGH dairy products, may contain language contrary to legislative intent. If so, this rule should be examined further.

Although the Assembly Agriculture Committee's 30-day review period expires on March 1, 1995, no public hearing has been scheduled at this time. As rural legislators, we are very concerned that legislative oversight over agricultural issues is being unnecessarily relinquished.

Therefore, we the undersigned, respectfully request that you extend the committee's review period, and schedule a public hearing on Clearinghouse Rule 94-126 as soon as possible.

A public hearing would provide the committee with valuable input from farmers and consumers, as well as helping ensure that the Legislature's oversight authority over agency rulemaking is maintained.

Respectfully,

Rep. James Baumgart
26th Assembly District

Rep. Mary Hubler
75th Assembly District

Rep. Marlin Schneider
72nd Assembly District

Rep. Frank Boyle
73rd Assembly District

Rep. Barbara Linton
74th Assembly District

Rep. Donald Hasenohrl
70th Assembly District

Rep. David Plombon
68th Assembly District



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

February 23, 1995

State Representative Alvin Ott, Chair
Assembly Committee on Agriculture
318 North, State Capitol
Madison, WI 54708

Dear Chairman Ott:

The purpose of this letter is to convey our concerns regarding Clearinghouse Rule 94-126 relating to rBGH labeling.

We strongly believe that Clearinghouse Rule 94-126, referred to the Assembly Committee on Agriculture does not reflect the intent of the Legislature. The rules promulgated by the Agriculture Board includes language requiring qualifying statements on labels which is clearly contrary to the Legislature's intent and the wishes of consumers and farmers. This qualifying language was also included over the objection of Agricultural Secretary Alan Tracy who also agrees that qualifying language need not be included.

We as legislators have an oversight responsibility to ensure that the legislature's intent is expressed in an agency's administrative rules. Consumers and farmers overwhelmingly have expressed their support of clear and concise labels and oppose the idea of complicating the labels with unnecessary, unwanted qualifying language.

As we understand, the Committee's original 30-day review period will expire on March 1, 1995. As Committee Chair you can extend the review period by simply notifying DATCP no later than the March 1st deadline.

Therefore, we the undersigned, in the interest of open government, request that the committee's review period be extended so that a meeting of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture can be called to hear public testimony on Clearinghouse Rule 94-126. In doing so, we can ensure that the Clearinghouse Rule 94-126 does indeed reflect the intent of the legislature.

Respectfully,

Rep. Barbara Gronemus
Ranking Minority Member
Assembly Ag Committee

Rep. Marty Reynolds, Member
Assembly Ag Committee

Rep. Mike Wilder, Member
Assembly Ag Committee

Rep. Al Baldus, Member
Assembly Ag Committee

Rep. Thomas Springer, Member
Assembly Ag Committee

Rep. Robert Dueholm, Member
Assembly Ag Committee



Wisconsin Dairy Products Association, Inc.

February 24, 1995

*File
APC*

Representative Alvin Ott
318 N., State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Al:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Dairy Products Association, whose members market 80% of the milk and dairy products in Wisconsin, I commend you for refusing to be pressured by other Representatives into holding hearings on the BST labeling rule. There already have been countless hearings on this rule and any additional ones would be fruitless and a waste of taxpayers money.

It is quite apparent that the Representatives that wish to conduct additional hearings are the same ones who have been opposed to rBST from the beginning. They have attempted to use every means possible to halt the usage of this product. Even though this long battle is finally winding down, they refuse to face the reality of the situation. Rather than moving on to more important legislation that would raise farmers' incomes, they continue to carry out their personal vendettas. It's amazing how they claim to be friends of the farmers when in reality they are causing more harm than they realize. Everytime they attempt to generate anti-BST publicity, they are raising consumers' fears about dairy products which in turn potentially reduces the consumption of dairy products. This, of course, would lead to a decrease in producer income.

Even though WDPA has never been for nor against rBST, we believe the debate has exhausted itself. It's time to move on and work for the betterment of Wisconsin's dairy industry rather than continuing to tear it apart. WDPA strongly encourages you not to hold hearings on any future rBST bills, such as AB 121 and 122. Continued debate on this issue will only serve to tarnish Wisconsin's dairy industry, not only within the state but across the nation.

Sincerely,

Bradley A. Legreid
Executive Director

STATE OF WISCONSIN

To _____

Date 1-30-95 Time _____

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Pete Christianson

of Quarles + Brady (Kraft)

Phone 414-277-5745

Telephoned	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please Call	<input type="checkbox"/>
Called to See You	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rush	<input type="checkbox"/>
Returned Your Call	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will Call Again	<input type="checkbox"/>

Message CR on BST Labeling -

rule is fine, - leave it alone
(Bury Baldus' bill) Hello to all

Party Receiving Call

call to
testing
↑

Sheryl's

~~2 Amendment~~

Jeanne
Meier

March 1 - customary day → makes sense

Sept 1 - usual day

- thinks different days are okay

if fail to
act by 9/1
automatically
jiggers into
another lease
cycle

June bill (AB 60) → no problem

State → BGH Labeling bill

- controversial

- makes sense to state not to have
hearing

- requires qualifying statement

DATCP dropped it - Board reinstated

- producer affidavits

- whether ~~notified~~ and/or renewed
(notarized) (every 2 yrs.)

farmer's groups resist somewhat

? controversial