

President's Letter
Luke Woelber
December, 2013

Over the past year, I have tried to keep abreast of the progress or lack thereof in Washington, DC. I would like to tell you there is a light at the end of the tunnel, or at this point a decision has been made, but to my knowledge it has not. There are some rather large compromises that have to be made between now and Christmas, and we can only hope at this point that it happens.

I would like to switch back to the state level for a moment. We have the legislative session coming up next month. It is a short thirty-day session, but a very important one to our industry. Over the past couple of years, a few of our friends and fellow dairymen have come under attack from groups filing nuisance lawsuits. Many of us were under the assumption that we had protection under the State's Right to Farm Act, but different interpretations of the law are allowing it to be tested.

This session, along with many partners in the state, we are trying to get a revised act passed that would further protect our industry as well as agriculture in general. As the population gets further and further removed from the production of their food, the protection of agriculture is becoming more important. I ask you to please contact your local legislators in an effort to educate and prepare them for the bill that will be presented to them. Hopefully by hearing from constituents, the severity of the situation can be understood and something can get done.

Thank you in advance for your help, and I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.