



*Co-Chairs*  
MNA Guy Ouellette  
Québec

MNA Guy Leclair  
Québec

*Co-Vice Chairs*  
Senator Theresa Gerratana  
Connecticut

Representative Kevin Ryan  
Deputy Speaker  
Connecticut

*Director*  
Wendell M. Hannaford

## RESOLUTION, AG1016-01

---

**Whereas**, the Council of State Governments' Eastern Regional Conference (CSG/ERC) is comprised of 11 states, from Maine to Maryland, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and five eastern Canadian Provinces; and

**Whereas**, dairy farmers in the Northeast are facing very troubling economic challenges, as is the entire U.S. dairy industry; and,

**Whereas**, farm milk prices have dropped over forty percent (40%) since 2014; and,

**Whereas**, U.S. cheese stocks have been recorded at their highest levels since first recorded in 1917; and,

**Whereas**, expectations are that the U.S. dairy market will continue to struggle with depressed milk prices; and,

**Whereas**, a vast majority of the dairy farms in the Northeast are all family operated businesses; and,

**Whereas**, a number of factors have contributed to this crisis; and,

**Whereas**, U.S. milk production has increased almost two percent (2%) over the last year, as has global milk production; and,

**Whereas**, increases in global milk production have led to a global depression of dairy prices; and,

**Whereas**, U.S. dairy farmers are trying to adjust to the new Farm Bill, and the changes to the new federal dairy program it contained; and,

**Whereas**, there is concern in the dairy industry that the new Margin Protection Program ('MPP') created in the most recent Farm Bill may need adjustments; and,

**Whereas**, dairy farmers in the Northeast are a key part of our states' agricultural community and overall agricultural economy; and,

**Whereas**, our dairy producers are in need of greater stability and support as they face these significantly lower prices, significant levels of imports and challenging export markets;

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved** that we request the Secretary of Agriculture to explore and take any and all action in his power to bring price stability to U.S. dairy prices while being cautious not to stimulate further overproduction; and,

**Be It Further Resolved** that Congress and the Secretary review the existing federal dairy program and recommend and support any alterations to the existing program to assure that it provides the benefit and stability to the U.S. dairy producer as originally intended; and,

**Be It Further Resolved** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the United States Secretary of Agriculture and the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Ranking Members of the U. S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee, and Congressional members of those Committees from the states in CSG's Eastern Regional Conference.

**Adopted August 10, 2016, at the CSG/ERC 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Policy Forum in Québec City, Québec**