



International Dairy Foods Association
 Milk Industry Foundation
 National Cheese Institute
 International Ice Cream Association



Consumer Federation of America



March 27, 2009



Dear Governor Beebe,

By passing HB 1451, the Arkansas Legislature has chosen to single out milk and dairy products for an excise tax that will weigh most heavily upon Arkansas families with children, many of whom are struggling to make ends meet. In doing so, the Legislature will discourage the consumption of one of the most nutritious beverages currently on grocery shelves.

Your leadership and commitment to the health and welfare of Arkansas families is all that is left standing between this incredibly bad bill and its becoming the law in Arkansas. We strongly urge you to veto this bill.

Surely there are better ways to help Arkansas dairy farmers than to impose a tax on the products they sell. By decreasing demand for their products, this bill will ironically end up hurting the entire dairy industry, both processors and farmers.

Just a few days ago, you signed into law a reduction in Arkansas grocery taxes. HB 1451 reverses course, but only for dairy. And, it is not even clear that the estimated \$4 million of revenue generated by HB 1451 will be necessary or appropriated to help the dairy farmers in your state.

Don't put a new tax on milk!

Sincerely,

Coalition Against the Milk Tax

- Americans for Tax Reform
- Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants Association
- Consumer Federation of America
- Council for Citizens Against Government Waste
- Grocery Manufacturers Association
- International Ice Cream Association
- Milk Industry Foundation
- National Cheese Institute
- National Taxpayers Union