

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1416

To amend the Agriculture Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 to allow a modified bloc voting by cooperative associations of milk producers in connection with the scheduled August referendum on Federal Milk Marketing Order reform.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 1999

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. KOHL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Agriculture Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 to allow a modified bloc voting by cooperative associations of milk producers in connection with the scheduled August referendum on Federal Milk Marketing Order reform.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 The Act may be cited as the “Democracy for Dairy
5 Producers Act of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFIED BLOC VOTING.**

2 Notwithstanding section 8c(12) of the Agricultural
 3 Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608c(12)), reenacted with
 4 amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement
 5 Act of 1937, in the case of the referendum conducted as
 6 part of the consolidation of Federal milk marketing orders
 7 and related reforms under section 143 of the Agricultural
 8 Market Transition Act (7 U.S.C. 7253), if a cooperative
 9 association of milk producers elects a vote on behalf of
 10 its members as authorized by such section 8c(12), the co-
 11 operative association shall provide to each producer, on
 12 whose behalf the cooperative association is expressing ap-
 13 proval or disapproval, written notice containing—

14 (1) a description of the questions presented in
 15 the referendum;

16 (2) a statement of the manner in which the co-
 17 operative association intends to cast its vote on be-
 18 half of the membership; and

19 (3) information regarding the procedures by
 20 which a producer may cast an individual ballot.

21 When ballots are tabulated by the Secretary of Agri-
 22 culture, the Secretary shall adjust the vote of a cooperative
 23 association to reflect individual votes submitted by pro-
 24 ducers who are members of, stockholders in, or under con-
 25 tract with, the cooperative association.