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**September 2, 2022**

## **MR. MICHAEL BARRETT**

Chair, Canadian Dairy Processors Association,  
Gay Lea Foods Cooperative Ltd.  
4220 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 500  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5Z9

Dear Mr. Barrett

I am writing you today as the owner of a small ice cream shop in Ottawa that was recently one of the latest of many small ice cream shops in Ontario that have had their local wholesale operations halted due an OMAFRA enforcement action.

I am writing to ask you if you could share with your [board](#) this [proposal](#) that we dropped off today and have crafted to address what we believe is a gap in Ontario's Milk Act that is preventing the growth of artisan ice cream in Ontario.

This proposal has been crafted with the assistance of people with expertise in the dairy industry. It's been crafted to start a discussion of how small ice cream makers can better respond to requests from local businesses to have local ice cream products on their shelves.

Right now the rules in Ontario, and we suspect elsewhere, are prohibitive to enabling that response. The costs and investments are too high for what are often small business neighbour to business neighbour transactions.

Meeting consumer demand is key to the future of the dairy industry. Addressing how to enable local, artisan ice cream makers to flourish, we believe is an important part of that future as it has the opportunity to create new relationships with dairy processors with new generations of farmers and entrepreneurs.

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Instead of enforcements, that they themselves are based on anonymous complaints, industry and government could be inspired by the work of the Dairy Processors of Canada and work hand in hand to support and nurture this industry. After all, we all now have the ability to enjoy great craft, local beer because decades ago, governments and industry together saw the future.

That future exists for artisan ice cream makers. As dairy processors, your voice can help shape that future. We hope that you are in a position to support this proposal and how it addresses geography, disclosure, testing, and tracing.

Regards,

Marlene Haley, owner  
The Merry Dairy

cc. The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister  
The Rt. Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario