

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 838

To allow modified bloc voting by cooperative associations of milk producers in connection with a referendum on Federal Milk Marketing Order reform.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 19, 2005

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

A BILL

To allow modified bloc voting by cooperative associations of milk producers in connection with a 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 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. MODIFIED BLOC VOTING.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (12)
8 of section 8c of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C.
9 608c), reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural
10 Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, in the case of the ref-

1 referendum conducted as part of the consolidation of Federal
2 milk marketing orders and related reforms under section
3 143 of the Agricultural Market Transition Act (7 U.S.C.
4 7253), if a cooperative association of milk producers elects
5 to hold a vote on behalf of its members as authorized by
6 that paragraph, the cooperative association shall provide
7 to each producer, on behalf of which the cooperative asso-
8 ciation is expressing approval or disapproval, written no-
9 tice containing—

10 (1) a description of the questions presented in
11 the referendum;

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

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

17 (b) TABULATION OF BALLOTS.—At the time at which
18 ballots from a vote under subsection (a) are tabulated by
19 the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary shall adjust the
20 vote of a cooperative association to reflect individual votes
21 submitted by producers that are members of, stockholders
22 in, or under contract with, the cooperative association.