

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
DAIRY EQUITY ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from New York, Mr. REYNOLDS, to introduce the National Dairy Equity Act of 2007, NDEA, which is designed to establish a minimum price for fluid milk and create a market-based safety net for dairy farmers.

I greatly appreciate the men and women who work the extremely hard and long hours needed to produce milk, butter, cheese, ice cream, non-fat dry milk, and yogurt. Thus, I would like to begin by noting that June is Dairy Month. It is hard to overstate how important dairy is to the United States economy, nor for that matter, how important dairy is to the economies of New York and its 23rd Congressional District, which I represent. In fact, in 2006, New York was the Nation's third largest dairy State; it accounted for about 7 percent (638,000 head) of the nation's milk cows, 6.7 percent (12.04 billion pounds) of total milk production, and 6.9 percent (\$1.6 billion) of total cash receipts from milk marketing. The importance of dairy to New York's 23rd District is readily apparent when one considers that the 2002 Census of Agriculture reported there were 1,989 dairy farms with 188,305 milk cows in the 11 counties that comprise the district.

I also appreciate the fact that the Milk Income Loss Contract, MILC, has provided about \$230 million in much-needed support to New York dairy farmers over the past 5 fiscal years and I know my constituent farmers do as well. Moreover, it is critical that the 2007 Farm Bill continue to provide dairy farmers with some form of income support. While I appreciate the support provided through MILC, the NDEA is an alternative that could help to provide additional support to American farmers with greater stability and at less cost to the taxpayer.

The NDEA would establish 5 Regional Dairy Marketing Areas, RDMA; the Intermountain, Midwest, Northeast, Pacific, and Southern. The Midwest, Northeast, and Southern regions would automatically be included as participating regions while the Intermountain and Pacific regions would have the ability to opt into the program.

In each region, a Regional Dairy Board would establish the minimum or over-order price for Class I (fluid) milk; that price would then have to be approved by farmers through a referendum. In the first year, the maximum price that a board could establish is capped at \$17.50 per hundredweight (cwt.), but thereafter the price could rise based on the Consumer Price Index, CPI.

Under the NDEA, when the Class I milk price in the Boston market falls below the established minimum price, processors would pay an over-order premium—the difference between the minimum price set by the applicable Regional Dairy Board and the Boston Class I price—into a national fund. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture would then distribute the monies in the fund back to the Boards according to a formula whereby each region would get back the greater of what they pay

into the fund or the amount of the over-order payments a region would have generated if it had a Class I utilization rate of 50 percent. In the event of a shortfall, the Secretary would supplement the money in the fund from savings from the MILC program to ensure that the Regional Dairy Boards, and subsequently the dairy farmers themselves, would receive the full payments.

The Regional Dairy Boards would be comprised of three members from each participating state in a particular region. The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture would make the nominations to the Boards after receiving nominees put forward by governors or elected state agricultural commissioner after consultation with the dairy industry. Each State delegation to the Regional Dairy Boards would consist of 3 representatives, with at least 1 producer and 1 consumer.

In addition to the responsibility to establish minimum prices and distribute payments to dairy farmers, the Regional Dairy Boards would have the authority to conduct supply management programs when necessary, including the development of incentive-based programs. Moreover, in order to prevent over-production, regions in which the growth in milk production is higher than the national average would be required to reimburse the U.S. Secretary of Treasury for the cost of government dairy surplus purchases up to the amount that the region is receiving under the NDEA.

It is important to note that the NDEA would not establish national pooling. Rather, it would create an equalization fund whereby processor paid funds would go to a central account at the U.S. Department of Agriculture; Government funds would be added to that fund and then payments would be made to the various regions according to a formula, which would permit regions with low Class I utilization to receive the same benefit as those regions with higher utilization.

Also of significance, the NDEA would be entirely optional for the States and individual farmers. Thus, those states that do not wish to participate in the NDEA program could simply choose to continue to participate in the MILC program, which the NDEA would extend to 2012, and individual farmers in States participating in the new NDEA program could instead opt to merely continue receiving payments under their current MILC contract rather than under the NDEA. However, those individuals would not be eligible to extend their MILC contract beyond September 2008 and would lose all future eligibility to participate in the NDEA program.

Madam Speaker, the NDEA would create a market-orientated, counter-cyclical program to help all of our Nation's dairy farmers while simultaneously saving taxpayers money. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me to enact this important legislation.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FATAL BEATING OF VINCENT CHIN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American

Caucus, I rise today in remembrance of Vincent Chin on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his attack.

On June 19, 1982, Vincent Chin, a Chinese American, was brutally and fatally attacked by two white men who had recently been laid-off by an American automaker. Blaming their lost jobs on the rise of Japanese car companies, Chin's attackers, mistaking him for Japanese, sought retribution.

Other than residing in Detroit, Michigan, Vincent Chin had no connection to the automobile industry. Vincent Chin, soon to be married and celebrating his bachelor party, wasn't seeking trouble the night of his attack. Chin was attacked and killed simply for being of Asian descent. To add further insult, Chin's murderers charged with, and pleaded guilty to, a mere manslaughter charge. For murdering a man, each received a sentence of only three years probation and a \$3,000 fine—a mere slap on the wrist. Neither killer ever served any jail time.

The attack on Vincent Chin, his untimely passing, and the insulting lack of justice and punishment for his murders galvanized a community that had not previously come together so broadly. For the first time, there emerged a self-defined Asian American and Pacific Islander racial identification that went beyond the progressive college-educated youth and into the working-class segments of the community. Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Filipino; waiters, lawyers, and grandmothers came together with a heightened awareness of the shared experience of racism and discrimination faced by Asian American and Pacific Islanders, regardless of ethnic and socioeconomic background. Twenty-five years after his fatal attack, Vincent Chin remains a contemporary martyr and rallying point for the Asian American and Pacific Islander Movement.

While today is indeed a day to remember and honor the life and death of Vincent Chin, it is also a reminder that hate crimes are not a memory in a regrettable past. Unfortunately, the past twenty-five years remain littered with physical and verbal assaults and murders based in hate. Listed here are a few such acts:

January 29, 1996, Thien Minh Ly, shot and killed in Tustin, California.

October 15, 1998, Kanu Patel and Mukesh Patek, shot and killed in Camp Springs, Maryland.

August 10, 1999, Joseph Iletto, shot and killed in Chatsworth, California.

September 15, 2001, Balbir Singh Sohdi, shot and killed in Mesa, Arizona.

September 15, 2001, Waqar Hasan and Vasudev Patel, shot and killed near Dallas, Texas.

July 30, 2006, Iqbal Singh, stabbed in Santa Clara, CA, My home district.

October 21, 2006, Robert Stanford, Song Sun Lee and Kam Yan Li, shot and killed in San Francisco, CA.

March 16, 2007, Marie Martinez, beaten on an MTA bus in New York City.

Madam Speaker, this small sampling from across this nation shows us that hate crimes remains an issue to be heard and combated by all Members of Congress and all Americans. I applaud my colleagues in the House of Representatives for recently passing the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007, H.R. 1592; recognizing the pervasive and contemporary nature of hate crimes in this