



**KEEPING THE
COWS IN WISCONSIN™**

Contact: Laurie Fischer
Dairy Business Association
Phone: 920.366.1880

John Umhoefer
Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association
Phone: 608.828.4550

For Immediate Release
February 11, 2008

State Continues Investing in Cheese Making

Governor and Lawmakers Continue to Recognize Important Component of State's Economy

Madison – The Dairy Business Association (DBA) and the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association (WCMA) applaud the efforts of Governor Jim Doyle, Senate Majority Leader Russ Decker (D-Weston), Assembly Speaker Mike Sheridan (D-Janesville), Representative Amy Sue Vruwink (D-Milladore) and others for the inclusion of the dairy cooperative investment tax credit in the state stimulus package that was announced today.

The dairy cooperative investment credit will allow cooperative members to be eligible for a tax credit up to 10% of qualified investments, with the credit capped at \$200,000 per processing plant. The credit will be distributed to members based on the amount of milk each member delivers to their cooperative.

“Once again, Governor Doyle and legislative leaders have demonstrated a strong commitment to the state’s more than \$20 billion dairy industry,” said Laurie Fischer, Executive Director of the Dairy Business Association.

The tax credit is aimed at the state’s dairy cooperative manufacturing processing sector by incenting the modernization or expansion of existing dairy cooperative manufacturing facilities. Such improvements could range from building constructions or additions, upgrades in processing and packaging equipment, improved computer technology, and waste treatment and management equipment along with an array of other options.

“Cheese production is the cornerstone of Wisconsin’s dairy processing industry. This incentive is well timed as America’s Dairyland retools its cheese industry to make value-added and specialty cheeses to keep Wisconsin’s dairy farming and cheese production communities healthy and growing,” said John Umhoefer, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association.

The Dairy Business Association and the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association also commend the Governor and legislative leaders for the inclusion of the meat packing tax credit that will allow the state’s meat processors to modernize.

###