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### **ROSENBERG WORKS TO REINVIGORATE DAIRY TAX CREDIT**

State Senator Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst), President Pro Tem of the Massachusetts Senate, is working to reinvigorate the Dairy Tax Credit, a benefit that could help the state's dairy farms stay in business.

In a letter to the state's Secretary of the Executive Office of Administration and Finance, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and to the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue, signed by nine state senators and representatives, Rosenberg is emphasizing the need to establish emergency regulations this fall so that the tax credit can be triggered for the 2011 tax year.

Last year, the dairy tax credit was not triggered. The current regulation requires a US Department of Agriculture issued federal milk production measurement, which the USDA is no longer publishing. This left many dairy farmers with the mistaken belief that the tax credit was no longer available.

"This tax credit is still viable and I believe it will help preserve our state's dairy industry," Rosenberg, who served on the Legislature's 2007 Dairy Farm Revitalization Task Force, said. "We just need to kick-start it with a new regulation that can be used for 2011 and beyond, but also create the opportunity to reopen 2010. It is simply unacceptable to lose a dairy farm because of a mistaken belief that the credit isn't available."

In the letter, Rosenberg urges Jay Gonzalez, Secretary of Administration and Finance, Richard Sullivan, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and Department of Revenue Commissioner Navjeet Bal, to "make every effort to work with the Department of Agriculture Resources to produce a set of emergency regulations for the Dairy Tax Credit Program as soon as possible. As we go into the fall, producers will need to be making

financial arrangements for the new year, yet they have no idea if there will be a tax credit in 2011 or if 2010 will be revisited. The revised regulations are needed quickly if there is to be any financial certainty and, potentially, financial assistance, available to Massachusetts dairy farmers.”