

NEDLT Newsletter

From the Desk of Bob Gray

- **Dairy Cool**

Senator Clinton will pursue her efforts next year by reintroducing her Dairy COOL Bill. In recent discussions with Senator Casey's office of PA wants to work closely with the dairy industry to see if the bill can be modified enough to make it palatable to all parties. His staff person Kasey Gillette does not think fluid milk should be included under Dairy COOL since all of our packaged fluid milk is made in the US. Senator Leahy is cool to the idea of a Dairy COOL bill at this point. We will need to work with our Northeast Senate offices on this issue.

- **FMMO Reform**

As you know the 2008 Farm Bill included the language that would establish a Federal Milk Marketing Order Review Commission. However the provision is subject to appropriations and given the huge federal deficits we face it is going to be quite a stretch to get the Commission funded. However our energetic young Congresswoman from New York's 20th Congressional District Kirsten Gillibrand wants to move ahead on revamping the federal orders anyway. She is looking for ideas. She can certainly get the Chairman to hold hearings but her staff person Brooke Jamison wants some concrete ideas on the table before any hearings are held. I couldn't agree more.