

KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL  
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July 18, 2012

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

I am writing on behalf of Ronald McCormick, a dairy farmer in my district and a current member of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board. I would like to offer my highest recommendation for Ronald, who I believe is incredibly well suited to represent Region 12 on the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board. Dairy farming has a long and noble history in my district, and the McCormicks are no exception to this proud tradition. The McCormicks are the fifth and sixth generation of their family to manage their farm, which began operating in 1854. Ronald understands this legacy and the importance of supporting the dairy industry both in New York State and nationally.

As you are aware, the U.S. Department of Agriculture established the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board under the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 to develop and administer a coordinated program of promotion, research and nutrition education. The thirty-eight member board is authorized to design programs to strengthen the dairy industry's position in domestic and foreign markets. Ronald understands this role having already served a term as a member of the Board.

Ronald also voluntarily serves in leadership positions with numerous organizations equally committed to the dairy industry. He serves or has served as the Director of the Upstate Niagara Milk Cooperative, as a member of the New York State Dairy Promotion Board, as a member of the Local Milk for Health Promotion Agency, as a member of the Council of Agricultural Organizations, as a member of the New York State Farm Bureau Dairy Committee, as a member of Western New York Crop Management, and as a member of the Cornell Cooperative Extension, where he works with Cornell University to improve milk quality. Ronald's farm was declared a dairy of distinction in 1981 and received the Century Farm Award in 2006. His farm is also program certified by the New York State Cattle Assurance Program (NYSCHAP). Ronald is also an actively involved member of his community, serving on the Church Council of St. John Neumann Parish and as a lifetime member of the Strykersville Fire Company. He has been married to his wife Peggy for forty-two years, and has five children and ten grandchildren.

As the representative for the largest dairy producing county in New York State, I understand how crucial strong dairy production is both to the local and national economy. I believe that Ronald McCormick will continue to excel and, if given the opportunity to serve a second term, will have a positive impact on the dairy industry and the Board. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen C. Hochul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

Kathleen C. Hochul  
Member of Congress