

State of Vermont Senate Chamber



Montpelier, Vermont

Joint Senate Resolution

By Committee on Agriculture,

J.R.S. 47. Joint resolution expressing appreciation to the National Milk Producers Federation and Vermont's dairy farmers for their phasing out the tail docking of dairy farm animals.

Whereas, the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) is a large organization that most dairy farmers in Vermont are associated with through their respective cooperative memberships, and

Whereas, routine tail docking of dairy animals has become a controversial practice, and

Whereas, NMPF's National Dairy FARM (Farmers Assuring Responsible Management) Program opposes the tail docking of dairy farm animals except in instances of traumatic injury, and

Whereas, an NMPF initiative is directing the phasing out of the tail docking of dairy farm animals as of January 1, 2017, and

Whereas, switch trimming will be the recommended alternative, and

Whereas, although federal, state, and local animal cruelty laws can serve as important preventative measures, they are unnecessary with respect to the tail docking of dairy farm animals because Vermont's dairy farmers, along with the NMPF, are voluntarily decreasing the prevalence of this practice in routine situations on dairy farms in Vermont and nationwide, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly expresses its appreciation to the National Milk Producers Federation and Vermont's dairy farmers for their phasing out the tail docking of dairy farm animals, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the National Milk Producers Federation, to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, to Vermont Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets Chuck Ross, and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.