

2777

Shomper, Kris

From: Miller, Sarah E.
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 1:09 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Fw: IRRC Website - New Message

RECEIVED

OCT 4 2010

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

From: Independent Regulatory Review Commission [mailto:No-Reply@irrc.state.pa.us]
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 01:04 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



IRRC

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Angela

Last Name: Gabriel

Company:

Email: innergate@gmail.com

Subject: milk safety regulations

Message:

Dear policy-makers and regulators, I hope you hear my voice as I still do believe our government presents us and defends and protects interests of its citizens rather than of corporate entities. I copy/paste and sign this petition because it clearly states my personal opinion. I urge you to realize that food safety is a size-sensitive issue. Please do not throw a baby out with the water. People need their trusted sources of non-compromized unprocessed safe and nutritious foods. It is our RIGHT to have access to these sources. Today we can rely only on small producers who utilize sustainable agriculture methods. This is not possible way of agriculture on large scale factory farming. It has been shown repeatedly many many many times that safety problems are associated with large-scale farming, not small producers. Please aim at the right goal! Please work out smart regulations which would benefit people, uncover multiple felonies which take place in factory farming and make right people responsible. Please protect small farms and farmers as they are our ONLY reliable source of safe foods. Moreover, they are our heritage and cultural value. If your children are old enough to know where their food comes from, where are you going to take them? To a mass-production factory with hundreds of thousands of caged sick animals or a nearby small farm? My name is __Angela Gabriel__, I am a raw milk consumer and I respectfully request that you reject proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation. I am an intelligent, discriminating consumer and do not need protection from my farmer-neighbor or local market or store. If they provide an unsatisfactory product or fail to appropriately correct a problem they will be out of business quickly. At that level, State regulation does not and cannot provide a higher level policing; every consumer polices that supplier with every transaction and has direct enforcement options.

Where we need government involvement is where the suppliers or markets are no longer our neighbors but rather corporations created by the State. Food safety is not size neutral. Larger operations are more complex, problems have much more far-reaching impacts and we have no direct meaningful recourse if there is a problem. The regulation needs to focus on those operations. Although some regulations on this latter group are necessary, the regulation could be much simpler if they were performance standards, requiring that the end product achieves a desired result. How that result is achieved is the producers' responsibility, not the State's. That would result in the State's role being to test for compliance, a function that could easily be contracted out, rather than inserting itself in micromanaging the operation. Again, I view the proposed regulation as excessive, and in some cases onerous and unnecessary. These flaws warrant that the proposed regulation be rejected. Respectfully and hopefully, Angela N. Gabriel