

2777

Shomper, Kris

From: Joan Palmer [palmerj7@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 4:21 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160

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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 a discriminating consumer and have done extensive research on the benefits and drawbacks of buying my food from my local farmer-neighbor. The local farmers I'm aware of are very conscientious about following rigid health standards in the production of their products. They are acutely aware that if they provide an unsatisfactory product or fail to appropriately correct a problem they will be out of business quickly. State regulation does not and cannot provide a higher level of policing.

Where we need government involvement is where the suppliers or markets are no longer our neighbors but rather large corporations who do not have a direct interface with their consumer customers. Food safety is not size neutral. Larger operations are more complex, problems are more frequent and have much more far-reaching impacts. Regulations that focus on these problems are more appropriate and necessary. Such regulation would do far greater good in serving the consumer public since we have no direct impact on those corporate suppliers and have no direct meaningful recourse if there is a problem.

Although some regulations on small local farmers 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.

Again, I view the proposed regulation as excessive and in some cases onerous and unnecessary. Therefore, I encourage you to reject the proposed regulation.

Most sincerely,
Joan Palmer