

Cooper, Kathy

2777

From: John Leimgruber [leimgrub@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2010 4:32 PM
To: IRRC; wchirdon@state.pa.us
Subject: Milk Sanitation Regulations

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To the PA IRRC and Mr. Bill Chirdon,

To me, being an American citizen here in Pittsburgh, PA means the freedom of choice. I believe that the quip found on the title page of "An Historical Review of the Constitution and Government of Pennsylvania" (Published by Benjamin Franklin in 1759) quite apropos to the proposed PA Department of Agriculture Final Regulation #2-160 (IRRC #2777): "Milk Sanitation". That is:

"Those who would give up ESSENTIAL LIBERTY to purchase a little TEMPORARY SAFETY, deserve neither LIBERTY nor SAFETY".

Just over 250 years later, I would still have to agree with Dr. Franklin on that one. While these regulation may sound great on paper and make people "feel good" and "feel safer", I don't believe that one can truly regulate human integrity. As for milk safety, I myself would rather see regulation that favors decentralized small local producers that are willing to shake my hand and operate in a transparent manner such that I myself might be able to observe their practices personally. I feel that the proposed regulation will adversely affect these true American entrepreneurs thereby potentially limiting my freedom of choice to an ever shrinking list of high volume commercial conglomerate producers. I would much rather buy milk from a family farm at my local market than to be forced to rely on a "Quality Control" person's initials on a regulatory test sheet to "prove" my milk is safe.

As such, I would recommed that proposed updates to the milk sanitation regulation appearing on the IRRC agenda for October 7, 2010 be withdrawn in advance of the October 7 meeting of the IRRC so that no action may be taken thereon at that time. In the event PDA does not withdraw the proposed regulations, I would suggest that the IRRC take action to reject them as currently drafted.

Thank you for your intent to improve my food safety, but please believe that "real food" is an essential liberty that should NEVER be given up and is likely our best chance at true safety.

-John W. Leimgruber III
Pittsburgh, PA