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Shomper, Kris

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From: Kimberly Christman [kchristman@collegium-charter.org]  
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 2:34 PM  
To: IRRC  
Subject: Proposed Regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation

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IRRC

Dear Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission: 2010 OCT -4 P 2: 36

My name is Kimberly Christman, I am a raw milk consumer. I respectfully request that you reject proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation.

I have been consuming raw milk for years and feel strongly that consumption of raw milk is integral to my health and that of my family. I applaud the PA Commonwealth for its laws protecting our rights to purchase and consume raw milk.

That said, I am an intelligent, discriminating consumer and do not need protection from my farmer-neighbor or my local 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.

Instead, where we need government involvement is where the suppliers or markets are no longer our neighbors, but rather large corporations. Food safety is not size neutral. Larger operations are more complex, their problems have much more far-reaching impact, and we have no direct, meaningful recourse if there is a problem. Regulation should focus on those larger operations.

Although some regulations on food safety are necessary, the regulation could be much simpler if there were performance standards, requiring that the end product achieves a desired result. How that result is achieved should be the producers' responsibility, not the State's. The State's role should be to test the end product for compliance, a function that could easily be contracted out, rather than inserting itself in micromanaging the operations of a multitude of dairies. It seems that testing the end product would be a more efficient and effective way to ensure safety.

Again, I view the proposed regulation as excessive, and in some cases onerous and unnecessary. Furthermore, I feel these regulations will place undue financial stress on many raw milk dairies who (without these regulations) have been producing nourishing, safe milk for quite some time.

I urge you to reject proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation.

Thank you,

Kimberly Christman