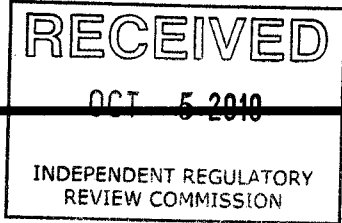


2777



Cooper, Kathy

From: amy spillert [amyspillert@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 8:53 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Request that you vote to DISAPPROVE "proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160

My name is Amy Spillert, I am a raw milk consumer and I strongly request that you reject proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation. I am a college educated, thoughtful consumer and parent and do not need protection from my farmer-neighbor. 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 and markets are no longer our neighbors but rather large 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. The 136 licensed raw dairy farms in Pennsylvania are doing their job safely and should be left to continue on as they have been doing.

Again, I view the proposed regulation as excessive, and in some cases onerous and unnecessary. These flaws warrant that the proposed regulation be rejected.

Signed
Amy Spillert