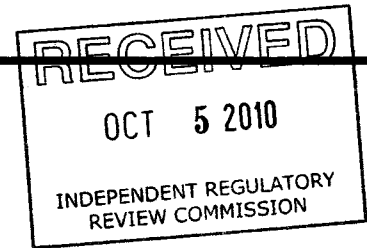


Shomper, Kris

**From:** Miller, Sarah E.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 05, 2010 6:31 AM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Subject:** Fw: Raw milk regulation in Pennsylvania



**From:** david barker [mailto:essencequest@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 05, 2010 02:52 AM

**To:** Johnson, Leslie A. Lewis; Cooper, Kathy; Shomper, Kris; Yohn, Cheryl; Miller, Sarah E.; Hoffman, Stephen F.; Wilmarth, Fiona E.; Schalles, Scott R.; Smith, James M.; Totino, Michael; Gelnett, Wanda B.

**Subject:** Raw milk regulation in Pennsylvania

My name is David Barker, 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.

This is a fundamental civil rights issue. I do not believe the government should have the right to control who I choose to make private contracts with, particularly with regard to the food I choose to eat. After extensive personal experience and research into the raw milk issue it is abundantly clear that this is not a public health issue at all but rather an ongoing attempt to protect the market and profit-making ability of the industrialized, pasteurization-dependent dairy industry who sell a product that is demonstrably inferior both in terms of nutrient value and its immunological effects (which are almost all negative in the case of pasteurized milk and almost all positive in the case of fresh, raw milk).

If you are really concerned about public health, please spend your time outlawing alcohol, spinach, chicken, deli meats, and (absurdly) numerous prescription drugs (taken as directed) which sicken and kill literally hundreds of thousands of Americans each year rather than raw milk products which (according to the CDC own data) result in about 50 illnesses per year in the entire country. How do you justify trying to regulate and restrict the production of a food that has been used for thousands of years, that results in almost no deaths throughout the country, and whose users swear to its personal health benefits (supported by significant amount of research), while being perfectly willing to give a complete pass to other food and 'medicine' products that sicken and kill hundreds of thousands of people every year? Seriously.

Please stop this completely unwarranted crackdown on raw milk producers and consumers.

I am sorry to be so blunt. But exactly who do you think you are to tell me what I can and cannot consume, especially in the face of decades of research and literally hundreds of thousands if not millions of personal testimonials demonstrating the incredible health benefits associated with raw milk consumption? (I would be happy to share the amazing benefits using raw milk products has had in my life and on my health if you are interested.)

- [1. *American Journal of Physiology* 1941, 133, 500
2. *British Journal of Nutrition* (2000), 84, Suppl. 1. S19-S25.

3. Brody, Ernest P., "Biological activities of bovine glycomacropeptide," *British Journal of Nutrition*, 2000;84(Suppl 1):S39-S46.
4. *Clinical & Experimental Allergy*. 2007 May; 35(5) 627-630
5. Connell, Ryan, "Boom or bust: Breast milk ballyhooed to beat the bulge," *MSN-Mainichi Daily News*, 2007 APR 11, available from <http://mdn.mainichi-msn.co.jp/waiwai/news/20070411p2g00m0dm002000c.html>, accessed 2007 MAY 26.
6. Crewe, JR. *Raw Milk Cures Many Diseases*, [www.realmilk.com](http://www.realmilk.com)
7. *Indian Journal Exp Biology Vol. 36, August 1998, pp 808-810.*
8. *Infection and Immunity, 2001 JUN;69(6):3883-3890.*]

Please do the right thing and let people make their own decisions about what foods they choose to eat themselves and serve their children. Surely you have better things to do with your time than to try to crack down on raw milk producers and consumers? It is in your best interests, and the best interests of your children as well, that government does not put the profits of entrenched business interests ahead of the health of its people.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration in this matter.

Frustratedly, (hopefully?) and healthfully yours,

David Barker  
213-393-3283