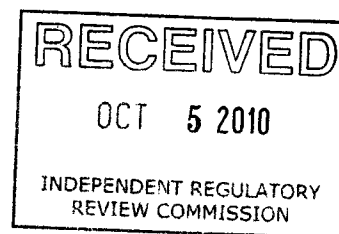


2777

Shomper, Kris

From: Miller, Sarah E.
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 6:29 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Fw: IRRC Website - New Message



From: Independent Regulatory Review Commission [mailto:No-Reply@irrc.state.pa.us]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 02:36 AM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



IRRC

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: David

Last Name: Barker

Company:

Email: kkaufman@irrc.state.pa.us

Subject: Please do not pass stricter regulation on raw milk producers and consumers

Message:

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 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 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 less than 50 illnesses per year in the entire country. Seriously, how do you justify trying to make the production of a food that has been used for thousands of years and results in almost no deaths throughout the country versus other food and 'medicine' products that sicken and kill hundreds of thousands of people to which you are perfectly willing to give a complete pass? 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.) Please do the right thing and let people make their own decisions about what is good for them and their children. Surely you have better things to do with your time than to try to crack down on raw milk producers and consumers? Frustratedly yours, David Barker 213-393-3283