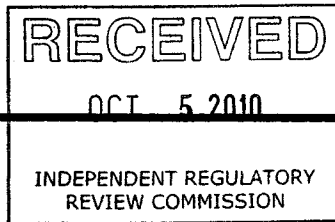


2777



Shomper, Kris

From: linda harkness [linda.harkness@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 12:52 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Please reject proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation

Our names are Linda Harkness, Lois Harkness, Emilio Marasco, Juliana Marasco and Chris Marasco. We are an extended family.

We have been raw milk consumers for many years, and we respectfully request that you reject proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation. We are all intelligent, discriminating consumers of varying ages ranging from 88 - 14 years of age. We neither need nor want protection from our farmer-neighbor or local market or store. If they were to provide an unsatisfactory product or fail to appropriately correct a problem people would stop buying from them and they would be out of business quickly. At that level there is no way that the State could possibly provide regulations with a higher level policing. Every consumer polices that supplier with every single one of their transactions, and they have direct enforcement options. We do not need or want government involvement at that level. Where we need government involvement is where the suppliers or markets are no longer our neighbors but instead are huge corporations created by the State. Food safety is not size neutral. Larger operations are more complex, problems have significantly greater and farther-reaching impacts, and we have no direct meaningful recourse when (not if) a problem occurs. The regulation needs to focus on those large, impersonal 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, we view the proposed regulation as excessive, and in some cases onerous and unnecessary. These flaws warrant that the proposed regulation be rejected.

Signed

Linda Harkness, Lois Harkness, Emilio Marasco, Juliana Marasco & Chris Marasco