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To Whom It May Concern:

October

I am a raw milk dairy consumer from Connecticut and a raw milk activist. During the CT 2009 legislative session I aggressively participated in defending raw milk and most importantly defending the raw milk dairy farmers.

Currently, Connecticut citizens are able to have the FREEDOM to choose the kind of milk we drink. Yes, a FREEDOM. The case has probably already been made in PA that the freedom of choice is not being threatened – just as it was in CT. That is just a joke. You see, if you pass this bill, you WILL be taking away the freedom for the residents of PA to choose because you will put these farms out of business.

Why would you want to put additional financial burdens on farmers by asking them to purchase bottling equipment and build separate facilities for sanitizing and bottling? In the name of food safety?! Certainly not if you've done your homework. Do you not know that hand bottling is FAR more sanitary than mechanical? Hand bottling allows the bottler to visibly inspect each bottle. Does the machine inspect each bottle like a person can?

These requirements in the proposed regulations are clearly not going to have any impact on a safer product. They will however, severely impact the small raw milk dairy farms and most likely put them out of business. Farms that produce food in the United States of America put out of business purposely by over regulation. All under the guise of food safety.

Please take these words into consideration.

Sincerely,
Heather Bunnell-Thibeault
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