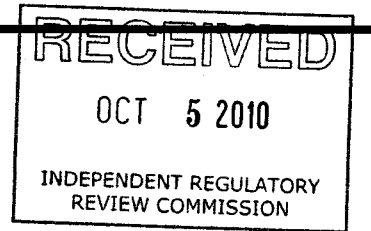


**Shomper, Kris**

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**From:** Heather Walters [hwalters@dotyandmiller.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 05, 2010 8:36 AM  
**To:** IRRC; wchirdon@state.pa.us  
**Cc:** heather@basketoflifefarm.com; brian@pasafarming.org  
**Subject:** Milk Sanitation regulations



Hello,

I would like to take a minute to express my opinion on the proposed changes to Pennsylvania's milk regulations. Although our farm is not in Pennsylvania and we are produce growers, we feel a connection to this issue as your state is a model for reasonable regulation of direct farm milk sales which we would like to see elsewhere as consumers of local and small scale agricultural products.

I respectfully request that you reject proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation. Adding requirements for separate rooms and requiring mechanical capping will do little but add barriers to the smallest farmer's entry to the industry while not significantly enhancing food safety. In this difficult economic time we should encourage agricultural entrepreneurs. Investment in a small dairy herd and the required structures and equipment is already an economically challenging endeavor for most farmers. These costs are barely offset by the added income farmers receive through direct sales. Requiring additional rooms and equipment will be more than many can afford.

While the requirements may seem modest they are targeted directly at the smallest producers, those least likely to have the economic resources to comply. Please reconsider these proposed regulations in support of your state's small farms and small farmers.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Heather Walters**

Basket of Life Farm

Peninsula Ohio