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Shomper, Kris

From: KELLY LEE CASSIDY [klc5422@psu.edu]
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 11:07 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Please reject proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Hello,

My name is Kelly Cassidy and I am a raw milk consumer in the state of Pennsylvania. I have been drinking raw milk for over 3 years with no problems - only many benefits. I have spent time and effort researching the many benefits of raw milk and am intensely interested in nutrition - so much so that I am majoring in it at Penn State University. My health has vastly improved since I began consuming raw milk products and deeply appreciate my local farmers for devoting their lives to providing this resource for their community. That is why I am very worried that proposed regulations will put onerous and unnecessary demands on my local raw-milk farmers.

We, the community, do not need the government policing small farms. We travel to these farms, and it is self-policing system - every consumer polices that supplier with every transaction and has direct enforcement options. At the small-farm level, if an unsatisfactory product is produced or a problem fails to be appropriately corrected they will be out of business quickly. Where we desperately *need* regulation is in large corporations created by the State where the community has no oversight. Where are our salmonella outbreaks coming from? The big corporations, not the small farms. The problems routinely encountered on a large scale level cannot be applied to the small farmer. Larger operations are more complex, problems have much more far-reaching impacts and we have no direct meaningful recourse if there is a problem.

Clearly some regulation of small farms is necessary for consumer protection, but it could be much less intrusive if the State would decide to simply test for compliance to a product standard, instead of micromanaging the operation. The end product should be held to a safety standard but it should not be the role of the State to impose unnecessary regulations that could devastate the ability of our small farmers to make a living.

For all of these reasons I must respectfully demand that you reject proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation.

Sincerely,
Kelly