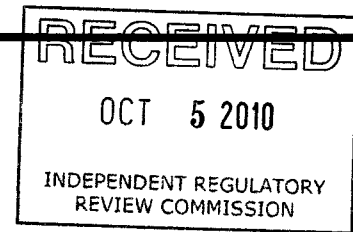


Shomper, Kris

From: Larisa Diffley [ldiffley@smcm.edu]
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 11:53 PM
To: IRRRC; wchirdon@state.pa.us
Subject: Please reject Raw Milk Regulation 2777



Hi, How are you? My name is Larisa Diffley, 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. Whereas in smaller transactions such as with family farms, we are able to be smart consumers with the greatest level of choice in our purchases.

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. And these unnecessary additions to the process of regulation in these farms will undoubtedly raise costs and put farmers out of business. Consumers in America are becoming more and more educated and aware of their health and food choices every day. Instead of working against what the people want, and ultimately driving them completely away from corporations and larger scale food operations (as they themselves take farming into their own hands, and stick with the smaller farms still available to them), we should allow consumers to make their own choices about what they deem best for their personal health. I believe the right to food, the right to live, is included, albeit not stated expressly, among our constitutional rights. Again, I view the proposed regulation as excessive, and in some cases onerous and unnecessary. These flaws warrant that the proposed regulation be rejected. Thank you for your time and consideration, Larisa Diffley