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Shomper, Kris

From: Laurie Donaldson [lbdonaldson@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 6:12 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: raw milk legislation

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Hello,

My name is Laurie Donaldson and I am a longterm resident of Pennsylvania. I have recently found out that there is legislation pending that will severely limit the ability of small farmers in Pennsylvania from providing raw milk to raw milk consumers like myself. As a tax-paying citizen of Pennsylvania and a raw milk consumer, I request that you reject the proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation. I do not need protection from my farmer-neighbor or local market or store. I can do my own research and discriminate which producers of raw milk are those I want to buy from. If they provide an unsatisfactory product or fail to appropriately correct a problem they will be out of business quickly. Every consumer polices their supplier with every transaction and has the option not to buy. Small farmers do not need to be harassed by legislation that is obviously influenced by large conglomerate marketers and suppliers. In fact, if Pennsylvania feels the need to legislate, they should be focusing their efforts on what the large industrialized farm industry is doing, not creating legislation designed to put small farmers out of business. For example, the recent salmonella-infected egg scandal is directly linked to large CAFO egg production, not to eggs produced by small farmers on family farms. The regulations need to focus on those operations.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania should not be in the business of regulating small farmers so that they cannot compete with large industrial machines. They should also not be in the business of infringing upon my right to buy food from the producer of my choice.

Again, I view the proposed regulation as excessive, invasive, and unnecessary. These flaws warrant that the proposed regulation be rejected. Certainly the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has better things to legislate than whether or not a milk producer caps his bottles in the same room as where the milk is stored or whether he/she caps them by hand or not.

Please reject the proposed regulation. Our rights are being infringed upon enough these days by intrusive governments, both federal and local. Let Pennsylvania lead the way back to a land of the truly free. Concentrate legislative efforts on worthwhile efforts and not on harassing the few remaining small farmers out of business.

Laurie Donaldson
Stewartstown, PA