

2777

Shomper, Kris

From: Marie Crawford [foxglove3@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 9:52 AM
To: IRRRC
Subject: opposed to proposed milk regulations

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IRRC

2010 OCT -5 A 9:54

> My name is Marie Crawford, 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 this level, State regulation does
> not and cannot provide a higher level policing; every consumer polices
> their 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.
> Enacting these regulatory changes will put raw milk producers out of
> business. The elimination of these farms, and consumer choice,
> amounts to state support of big agribusiness, which is irrespective of
> consumers'
> needs to purchase food in sustainable ways: local, whole, and not
> subject to massive product recalls, which, as the recent egg scare
> reminds us, threaten large populations of people, and has much
> greater potential for widespread illness. 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. Food safety is not size neutral.
>
> 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.

> Please understand that individuals who purchase raw dairy products do
> so for reasons that even if the choice were no longer available would
> not switch to non-raw products or products offered by farms
> that do not engage in practices that meet their quality standards.
> Shutting down raw milk producers will not increase sales of
> conventional, pasteurized milk products, from consumers like me.
>
> Again, I view the proposed regulation as excessive, and in some cases
> onerous and unnecessary. These flaws warrant that the proposed
> regulation be rejected. I request that you vote to DISAPPROVE
> "proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160
>
> Signed
> Marie Crawford