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Shomper, Kris

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From: Maura Fisher [maura\_fisher@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 9:06 PM  
To: IRRC; wchirdon@state.pa.us

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IRRC

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Dear IRRC and Mr. Chridon,

My name is Maura Fisher and I am a raw milk consumer. I respectfully request that you reject proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation. I am an intelligent, well educated, and 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.

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.

There is ample evidence to indicate that raw milk is actually *safer* and less hazardous to one's health than the mass-manufactured, overly processed, and hormone-infused milk deemed by US regulatory agencies as "safe." Again, I view the proposed regulation as excessive, and in some cases onerous and unnecessary. I might also add that these regulations are elitist, implicating that purchasers of raw milk are unable to make their own informed decisions about what they buy and from whom. These flaws warrant that the proposed regulation be rejected.

Respectfully,  
Maura Fisher