

2777

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OCT 5 2010

Shomper, Kris

From: Phuong Ngo [phuongngo70@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 9:21 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Reject Proposed Regulation #2777 Dept. of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Hello,

My name is Phuong Ngo and I respectfully request that you reject proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation.

I have been incorporating real food and rapidly decreasing our consumption of processed foods and have seen the health benefits for my family. Though we do not have access to raw milk in NJ, I hope that one day NJ will provide for the sale of raw milk in the same exemplary fashion that PA does. I am an intelligent, discriminating consumer and do not need protection from my farmer-neighbor or local market or store with regards to the foods I purchase. 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.

Again, I view the proposed regulation as excessive, and in some cases onerous and unnecessary. These flaws warrant that the proposed regulation be rejected and in so doing, allow PA to continue to be a model for other states in providing a source of healthy food - raw milk.

Signed
Phuong Ngo