

2777

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Shomper, Kris

From: Rachel Ritter [rritter.rn@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 7:04 AM
To: IRRRC
Subject: Please disapprove regulation #2777

My name is Rachel, I am a raw milk consumer in Cambridge, MA. I respectfully request that you reject proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation. I've made an educated decision regarding my consumption of raw milk and I don't need protection from my farmer-neighbor or local market or store. This regulation is flawed for three reasons: it is unlikely to make a substantial difference in food safety, it is unnecessarily burdensome to small producers/farmers, and the administrative cost is prohibitive,

If my local dairy farmer provides an bad product or fails to correct problems, they will be out of business quickly, because local consumers will find another supplier. At the local level, it is easy to see which farmers have unresolved issues. Because we know our local food producers, we can use this relationship to change the situation. Also, because of their size, proximity, and the relationship they maintain with their local customers, there is an open exchange of information and generally the facilities are available for each consumer to visit/inspect.

The proposed regulations will be costly to farmers, yet provide little results and no financial return. Because of this, it will impact their ability to remain financially viable. We need to support our local food producers, not hinder them, if for no other reason than food security. This is especially true in today's political climate, where our dependancy on foreign oil products is a hot issue with an uncertain future.

Local consumers police their local supplier(s) with every transaction. We need government involvement when the suppliers or markets are no longer our neighbors but rather large corporations. It is not possible for consumers to maintain a similar level of involvement with these businesses due to a multitude of factors, not the least of which is proximity. The regulations need to focus on those operations.

If additional regulations are necessary, evidence based performance standards would be appropriate and more cost effective. Requiring that the end product achieves a desired result, but leaving the method up to individual farmers, would change the State's role to monitoring compliance. This can be contracted out easily, relieving the work required by government. In this economy, we need to focus our resources where they are needed most, and raw milk has not posed a statistically significant enough threat to consumers that it warrants this amount of resource utilization.

Again, the proposed regulation is ineffective, cumbersome, and cost prohibitive. These flaws warrant that the proposed regulation be rejected.

*Sincerely,
Rachel Ritter*

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"As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

~Marianne Willamson