

2777

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**Shomper, Kris**

**From:** Swartzentruber [wcpastures@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 05, 2010 9:42 AM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Subject:** Please reject proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160: Milk Sanitation

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

I am part of a small family dairy farm that currently wholesales organic milk. In order for Pennsylvania's small farmers to remain viable in the uncertain years ahead, we need to retain as many direct-market options as possible. This includes the ability to market raw milk, and to process value-added products such as cheese, butter, and ice cream. The latter already involve huge price hurdles in equipment, processing, and facilities. Adding those expenses to the sale of raw milk would further burden the Pennsylvania farmer who wishes to direct market his product.

Certainly cleanliness and safety are important, and regulation standards of the end product are already in place in Pennsylvania. Most importantly, when the consumer has a relationship with the farmer, the consumer is the highest form of quality control, and a farmer who fails to meet the consumer's standards will soon be out of business.

If any extra regulation is needed, the focus should be on mega-farms where the ability to control product quality is far more complicated and has farther reaching implications. Pennsylvania's agricultural system was built on small family farms—let's keep them both viable financially as well as an attractive opportunity for the coming generation by saying NO to this proposed regulation.

Thank you,  
Stephany Swartzentruber