

2777

Shomper, Kris

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From: S. Salchow [s_salchow@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 9:56 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: proposed regulation #2777 Department of Agriculture 2-160

OCT 5 2010

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear IRRC,

I have been eating and drinking raw milk and all manner of raw dairy foods for more than five years now. I consider them to be a vital part of my diet and all my efforts to maintain my health. I buy my raw dairy from small farms. The farmers who run these farms are very committed and responsible people who are also good stewards of the environment. I know them personally and trust them and that is why I choose to buy their food. It does not matter to me in the least whether or not they have obtained permission or otherwise bowed down to the government so that they may do what God has given them the right to do since time immemorial. I am no fool and do not need government's help to determine where to get my food.

Nor are my farmers fools. They know how to produce their food and do not need the government to tell them how to do what they have been doing for many generations. That is what your proposed regulations will do. They are burdensome and intrusive and will put most small farmers out of business quickly. Perhaps there is a case for state and local governments to mandate minimal safety standards, but if so, they should allow the farmer to achieve those standards by whatever means he sees fit. If anything, the government should be regulating large, industrial farms. These are the very farms which the government has licensed to operate over the objections of their neighbors, because they are big polluters and destroyers of the environment. Such large farms are already regulated, and yet all the stories I hear about people getting sick from the food they eat, whether ground beef, eggs, dairy (almost always pasteurized), fruit and vegetables, involve large factory farms. I have yet to hear of any problems with small farms, though I imagine there must be some.

In short, I believe these proposed regulations should be rejected.

Sincerely,
Steve Salchow