

Dear fellow Pennsylvania's of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission,

I made a 250 mile trip to give testimony of my experience selling raw milk and dealing with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. I have sold milk for about 10 years to friends and neighbors. Early in 2007, I applied for a raw milk permit which took about 6 months to get. Over the next 18 months things went fairly well except for being periodically confronted about our method of filling milk jars for our customers.

Our bottling method is as follows: We bought gallon and half-gallon glass jars which we gave to our customers. Each morning one of our adult children sanitizes and fills the jars, and places them in large refrigerator. Then throughout the day our customers stop by and wait on themselves. This method also remedies the problem that every other day, around noon, our bulk tank is emptied by the milk plant; thus no milk would be available if we waited to fill the jars as our customers arrived.

In July of 2009 our tank washer failed to circulate the wash water which resulted in two milk quality violations. We corrected the problem and a month later my P.D.A. inspector put me on re-inspect ordering me to get a bottling machine or wait to fill the milk jars until the customers arrived. This tells me that the milk quality was good, the method was fine, just the time of day was wrong. So I told my inspector to back-off or else I would drop my permit.

Then from September of 2009 till May of 2010 only two out of eighteen milk quality samples passed the P.D.A.'s standard for raw milk. Before this time from the dates of January of 2008 till June of 2009 I had 30 out of 31 milk quality samples that had passed the P.D. A.'s standard for raw milk.

On May 20, 2010 P.D.A. hand delivered a written order to cease pre-bottling.

On August 4, 2010 my P.D.A. inspector came to see me, telling me it was time to inspect; but informed me before doing the inspection that I would fail due to the pre-bottling issue. I told him to take my raw milk permit back. He then informed me that he had a milk quality citation with him which he then took to the District Magistrate. This citation is being appealed at this time.

I feel I have been faithful in keeping the "spirit of the law" in supplying high quality raw milk to my customers at the affordable price of \$2.50 per gallon. These new regulations set forth will cost more than the milk we sell is worth. These regulations will either force me to stop selling my product locally; or sharply escalate the price of my milk, while providing no new benefit to my customers; or civil disobedience.

Milk quality is achieved by having all equipment clean and in good order, along with having healthy cows and cleaning teats and udders before harvesting milk. The new regulations asked for by the P.D.A. will do nothing for milk quality but could hurt quality if this additional equipment is not always kept clean.

Therefore, I ask the Independent Regulatory Review Commission to reject the new regulation proposed by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Respectfully,

