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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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*COPY PA Independent
Regulatory Review Commission*

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Food Safety, Division of Milk Sanitation
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9408
Attention: Paul Hoge

I urge PDA to make the following changes to the proposed regulations:

1. Remove direct transactions from the producer to the consumer in the regulations. For 6 years I have been purchasing products from the same farmer. We are retired.
2. Direct farm-to-consumer transactions in raw milk and other farm products have been a boon to the Pennsylvania economy. Improving access to raw milk will improve Pennsylvania's economy! I purchase restaurant meals, gasoline, windshield washer fluid, and ice in PA. I send money into the PA economy by buying from PA farmers. I use PA butchering services.
3. Direct transactions between the producer and the consumer are private in nature and do not impact the health, safety or welfare of the "public."
4. The farmer and local consumer have a relationship that is more accountable than anything that could be created by government regulation. Local customers know their food source, and the farmer has every incentive to produce a quality product so that he keeps his reputation and his customers. Through serendipity I found a farmer feeding moldy hay. He stopped the practice when I showed him how it was detrimental to the health of his herd.

5. States that allow the unlicensed sale of raw milk direct from farmer to consumer, such as Missouri and Nebraska, have a good track record for food safety.

Testing "for pathogens" should actually be testing "for pathogens that cause illness in humans".

-Many bacteria are called "pathogens," but not all of them cause illness in humans. How many bacteria live between your eyes? Trillions. I believe good bacteria need to eat bad bacteria. Please define "immune system". Is gratitude good for the immune system? Yes, it is. Is grass-fed organic beneficial to the immune system? Yes, it is.

-It is not reasonable to use state resources to test for things that don't cause illness in people and that therefore pose no public health threat.

-Shutting down a farmer for something that poses no human health risk hurts the farmer, the consumers, and the local economy.

Sincerely,

Janet and Paul G. Baer

