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August 15, 2009

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Department of Food Safety

Division of Milk Sanitation

2301 N. Cameron Street

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Attn: Paul Hoge

Dear Mr. Hoge:

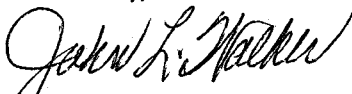
I write to express my concern that the time for comment on the proposed new Dairy Sanitary regulations is currently too short. At a time when there is much discussion about the need for transparency in government, we must not forget that to have true transparency, we must provide an adequate amount of time for reading the documents, discussing their implications and framing appropriate comments by those who will be most affected by these regulations. Thirty days for comment does not provide men and women who are working full time, often more than full time on their Pennsylvania dairy farm, to adequately consider and respond to PDA on an issue of this importance.

As a member of PASA, the Center for Food Safety and whose professional career included work with Pennsylvania legislators, I know a bit of how legislation works. I think that when legislative action or change by bureaus of government is considered, the list of shareholders is often too short and/or consideration of their concerns inadequate.

My primary concern is with Chapter 59a Milk Sanitation regulations and I am asking that the period for comment be extended for 90 days beginning with August 1, 2009. Such an extension is a more realistic time frame for affected persons to provide input and consequently provides a better opportunity for regulators to make wise choices.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



John L. Walker

538 Mt. Pleasant Road, Bloomsburg, PA 17815.

CC: PA Independent Regulatory Review Commission, 333, Market St. 14th floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

August 24, 2009

Mr. John L. Walker
538 Mt. Pleasant Road
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Re: NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
Department of Agriculture
7 Pa. Code Chapters 59 and 59a
Milk Sanitation
I.D. No. 2-160
39 Pennsylvania Bulletin Page 4677 (August 1, 2009)

Dear Mr. Walker:

You were among the persons who offered written comments with respect to the proposed regulation referenced above. I hereby acknowledge receipt of those written comments.

Under the provisions of the Regulatory Review Act (at 71 P.S. § 745.5a), the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture ("PDA") is required to review and consider your comments as it prepares the "final-form" version of this regulation. The Regulatory Review Act *also* prescribes a process by which you can formally request: (1) notification when PDA submits the final-form regulation to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission for review by that body; and (2) a copy of the final-form regulation (showing any changes that have been made as a result of the comment review process).

If you wish to formally request the information described in the preceding paragraph, you may submit this request by contacting me through the address set forth on this letterhead.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Hoge
Dairy Program Specialist

cc: Dwight-Jared Smith, Esq., with Comment Letter