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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

*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

Janet Baer
Paul G. Baer