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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

PA Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Food Safety  
Division of Milk Sanitation  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg PA 17110-9408  
att: Paul Hodge

ref: Public Comment Period for Milk Sanitation Regulations

Dear Mr. Hodge:

Please extend the public comment period for the proposed Chapter 59A Milk Sanitation regulations published on August 1st in the PA Bulletin another sixty days. It is surprising that revisions so important to the health and safety of the Commonwealth should be issued and processed with such dispatch at a season when few can spare time and attention for them. If all interested parties are to comment, especially the family farmers who contribute so much to the state's dairy industry, you must allow them time to study the bill and give a considered response. Hurry the process and you get input only from lobbyists paid to push megafarm agendas; since these megafarms are the source of the largest food-borne infections, it is obviously in our interest to solicit the opinions of a maximum of other viewpoints.

For my own part, I hope new regulation will build on the solid foundation which confirmed that hygienically-produced raw milk is wholesome food and a valuable commodity. It has certainly not escaped your notice that high value-added milk products like artisan cheeses are originating in small farms across the Commonwealth; these farms also pioneered antibiotic and supplementary hormone-free milk and high omega 3 milk from grass-fed herds. The cutting edge of animal husbandry is with Pennsylvania's small farmers: I hope the sense and goal of all new regulations is to support and encourage them.

Yours sincerely,

Suella Pipal

cc: PA Independent Regulatory Review Commission