

2777

**Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission**  
**333 Market Street, 14th Floor**  
**Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101**  
**Fax number: 717-783-2664**

RECEIVED

2009 SEP -8 AM 10:25

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Please find attached a copy of a letter sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture regarding the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) is proposing revisions to its administrative regulations that implement the current milk sanitation laws. The proposed changes include a whole section (Section F) that deals with raw milk and raw dairy products.

I believe this is of importance to you as it can directly impact the economic risks to our small farmers and family dairy farms. Many of our small farmers are struggling and trying to find ways to increase profit to maintain their farms and families. We are not talking about individuals who are looking to make millions of dollars but rather maintain a living doing what their family has done for generations or something that they have chosen as a lifestyle.

The consumer should have the freedom of choice. If they choose pasteurized milk and milk products they have the ability to go to any grocery store or quik mart to purchase it. If they have chosen to consume raw milk and raw milk products their options are limited and now possibly eliminated.

As a prior resident of Pennsylvania and frequent visitor I believe it imperative to reconsider the impact of changes to the regulations.

Thank you,



Amika M. Cook Ortiz  
Previously of Bethlehem, PA

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

Dear Paul -

As a prior resident of Pennsylvania and frequent visitor I urge PDA to make the following changes to the proposed regulations:

Exempt direct transactions from the producer to the consumer from these regulations

1. 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!
2. For non-Pennsylvania residents: Note that I bring money into the Pennsylvania economy by buying from Pennsylvania farmers
3. Direct transactions between the producer and the consumer do not impact the "public's" health, safety or welfare and are purely private in nature

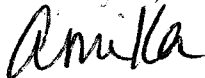
States that allow the unlicensed sale of raw milk direct from farmer to consumer have a good track record for food safety. And testing "for pathogens" should actually be testing for "pathogens that cause illness in humans".

1. Not all "pathogens" cause illness in humans
2. 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
3. Shutting down a farmer for something that poses no human health risk hurts the farmer, the consumers, and the local economy

As with many other issues this becomes a freedom of choice... we should have the ability to select the type of food we wish to consume. Giving us the freedom to choose does not impact consumers that do not wish to partake in raw milk or raw milk products. They still have other products available to them in the market.

Please take this into careful consideration when considering changes to the regulations.

Thank you,



Amika M. Cook Ortiz  
Previously of Bethlehem, PA