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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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September 2, 2009

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

RE: Proposed Changes to Milk Sanitation Laws

Dear Mr. Hoge:

I am writing to you as a father in New York that only allows his children to drink raw milk. The research is overwhelming that the nutritional value of raw milk far exceeds the homogenized pasteurized version that we see in grocery stores. The proof is in the pudding. My children are healthy vibrant young people, which is especially obvious when compared to some of their friends who consume this adulterated product from the grocery store.

The direct transactions from the milk producer to consumers should be exempt or excluded from any regulations that are being proposed. History tells us that the contamination of milk and other food products in our system are related to the practices of corporate farms that have little concern for proper animal husbandry and the processing of their product(s). Direct farm to consumer transactions in raw milk or other farm products are only a plus to the Pennsylvania economy. The public's health is not in danger by these transactions as they are purely private in nature.

Other states that have allowed the sale of raw milk directly from farmer to consumer have excellent track records as far as food safety. When we talk about pathogens in milk, you should be really looking at pathogens that cause illness in humans. There are pathogens in all food products, but that does not translate into human illness or a public health threat. Shutting down a farmer for something that does not impose a human health risk is illogical and does nothing but hurt the local economy.

It is hoped that the influences of large corporate farming will not cloud your thinking on this common sense issue. People have been drinking raw milk for thousands of years without adverse health effects. It is only when farms became corporate that these issues surfaced. The small farm to consumer transactions do nothing to effect the public health and only act to grow the economy in the state of Pennsylvania.