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Huntington, NY 11743

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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

August 26, 2009

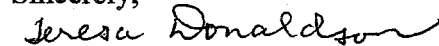
Dear Mr. Hoge:

I am writing as a healthy, happy consumer of Pennsylvania raw milk! Firstly, I would urge you to make changes to the following regulations

- Exempt direct transactions from the producer to the consumer from the regulations
 - Buying raw milk and raw milk products has boosted the Pennsylvania economy! **Improving access to raw milk from PA can only continue to be a boon to the economy.**
 - Direct transactions between the producer and the consumer are private in nature and do not impact the health, safety or welfare of the "public." **My family and I benefit tremendously from the availability of these products.**
 - **I enjoy a personal relationship with my farmer, as does every purchaser of his/her products.** It is a more accountable relationship than any the government could institute. Our farmers have every incentive to provide us the best quality food products in order to keep our business and maintain their reputations.
 - Other states allow the unlicensed sale of raw milk direct from farmer to consumer, such as Missouri and Nebraska. **They have a good track record for food safety.**
- Specify that the 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. There are good, healthy bacteria in milk that are good for us humans!
 - 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.
 - In addition, shutting down a farmer for something that poses no human health risk hurts the farmer, the consumers, and the local economy. One might wonder what motivates such behavior on the part of government agencies.

I appreciate your careful attention to the points in my letter and hope that the voice of consumers will weigh heavily in your decision-making process.

Sincerely,



Teresa Donaldson

Cc: Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission