

2777.

Monica M. Alzate
92-16 Whitney Avenue, Apt. 209
Elmhurst, NY 11373

RECEIVED

2009 SEP 16 AM 9:16

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

September 6, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Hoge:

I urge the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture ("PDA"), to make the following changes to the proposed regulations:

1. Exempt direct transactions from the producer to the consumer from the regulations

-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 am not a Pennsylvania resident, but I send money into the Pennsylvania economy by buying from Pennsylvania farmers. I believe direct transactions between the producer and the consumer are private in nature and do not impact the health, safety or welfare of the "public."

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.

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.

Furthermore, 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. My entire family has been consuming raw milk for a long time and we have never become sick. 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,


Monica M. Alzate

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