

September 18, 2009

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Ms. Barbara Butler
8812 Littlewood Road
Parkville, MD 21234

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2009 SEP 25 AM 9:25

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hoge:

As a concerned consumer, I am writing to you to urge PDA to make the following changes to the proposed regulations:

- Please exempt direct transactions from the producer to the consumer from the regulations:
 - Transactions in raw milk and other farm products directly from farm-to-consumer have been a boom to the economy for Pennsylvania; and improving the access will only further improve Pennsylvania's economy!
 - My grocery money goes directly to a wonderful farmer in Pennsylvania every other weekend, notably, I cannot and do not want to live without them!
 - I have a very trusting relationship with my farmer and believe he is more accountable than any measure or regulation that the government could create. Small, local farmers have every incentive (in their reputations alone!) to produce a quality product.
 - Transactions that are directly between the producer and the consumer are 'private in nature' and do not impact the health, safety, or welfare of the general public.
 - Also, Missouri and Nebraska allow the unlicensed sale of raw milk direct from the farmer to consumer, and their track record is impeccable!
- Please also note 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.
 - 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,

Barbara J. Butler
410-688-0678

cc: PA Independent Regulatory Review Commission