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August 27, 2009

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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Mr. Hodge,

PLEASE enable me to continue purchasing healthy raw milk from Pennsylvania. The PDA's proposed revisions to its administrative regulations implementing milk sanitation will likely end this by applying irrelevant, misguided tests to raw milk.

Understand the following:

Not all bacteria, nor even so called "pathogenic" bacteria, cause illness. Our digestive system uses a *community* of bacteria, which is predominately good bacteria and around 15% "pathogenic" bacteria, which have their purpose. That is how nature works. **So:**

- The proposed testing for "pathogens" should be testing for "pathogens in kind and number that cause illness in humans".
- State resources should not be wasted testing for things that do not cause illness in humans.
- Shutting down a farmer for something that causes no human risk is tyranny that hurts the consumer and your local economy.

Government does not have the right to interfere with direct producer to consumer relationships. They have no impact on public health, safety or welfare. Furthermore, direct farm to consumer relationships are more accountable than anything that could be created by government regulation; the producers need to keep their customers and reputation. **So:**

- The proposed regulations should exempt direct transactions between producer and consumer.

The significant and increasing consumer demand for grass-fed raw milk is there for a reason. In my case, my son could not have healed from serious gastro-intestinal disease and regressive autism spectrum disorder (Yes, there is such a thing as healing from these.) without my resorting to grass-fed raw milk (with all its bacteria and pathogens), and which we have been consuming now for years. **So:**

- Don't deny health to our children and citizens.
- Don't handicap Pennsylvania's economy by denying it from participating in this growth market.

Urgently,



Carrie A. Newcome, Fairfax, VA

P.S. Continental Europe has always had raw milk easily available to its public with no systemic problems. U.S. 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 its safety.

cc: Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission