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September 27, 2009

Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture
Bureau of Food Safety
Division of Milk Sanitation
2301 North Cameron St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Attn: Paul Hoge

cc: Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission

Dear Mr. Hoge,

This letter is regarding the Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture's proposed revisions to its administrative regulations that implement the current milk sanitation laws (Section F dealing with raw milk and raw dairy products).

Even though I am not a Pennsylvania resident I often buy products from Pennsylvania farmers directly. In these difficult economic times I assume you want to keep money coming in from any/all sources. Pennsylvania farmers are known for their safe raw milk/dairy products and your proposed revisions would cut drastically into their livelihood. Direct transactions between farmer and consumer are purely private in nature and should not be regulated.

Moreover, unlicensed sale of raw milk directly from farm to consumer in Pennsylvania has had an excellent record for food safety.

It is not reasonable to use state money to test for things that don't cause illness.

It is more appropriate and cost-effective to test only for pathogens that cause illness in humans. Shutting down a farmer for something that poses no human health risk hurts the farmer, the consumer, and the local economy.

Sincerely,

Jamie Smith
4620 N. Park Ave.
Chevy Chase, MD 20815