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

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MILK DIVISION

I firmly believe the role of government is to help and support it's ordinary citizens, not to hurt them. Therefore, I urge PDA to make the following changes to the proposed regulations:

1. Exempt direct transactions from the producer to the consumer from the regulations
2. Testing "for pathogens" should actually be testing "for pathogens that cause illness in humans"

We live in Maryland and travel to Pennsylvania weekly for our raw milk. Since we have to make the trip for milk, we choose to also obtain other products such as grass fed beef and free range eggs. On average we spend about \$100.00/week in the local Pennsylvania economy.. This money is a godsend to our farmer and it enables him to afford his mortgage. I purchase the same food he feeds his family and I've toured his farm. I believe that personally knowing my source results in healthier food than regulations ever could.

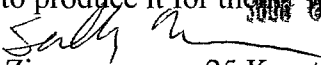
We started drinking raw milk about 2 years ago. We have seen changes in the health of our family and are now ardent supporters of the right to purchase it. I'm baffled how the government can say it's safe for us to purchase bovine growth hormone milk from cows given constant antibiotics and fed an unnatural diet of grain and not even allow me to purchase real milk from farmers I know and trust. In my opinion, the government is caving in to agribusiness. The more I learn about the FDA, agribusiness and the revolving door with Monsanto, the more skeptical I become.

With the health care crisis looming, I say simple things like raw milk can help be part of the solution. In general, after adding raw milk to our diet, we don't get sick as much and when we do, it isn't as bad as it used to be. Also, since going on raw milk, my son's pediatrician has commented on how well my son is growing. Previous to raw milk, my pediatrician would comment on his lack of weight gain. My son was not getting the necessary nutrients and fats from pasteurized/homogenized "dead" milk. A nutrition professor taught me that pasteurization and homogenization really does change the structure of food and thus your body's ability to absorb nutrients. I believe the statement that 80% of your health begins in your gut. Raw milk, unlike pasteurized milk, has probiotics which improve your gut.

Sustainable, local agriculture is something we all should be working toward. Small, self-sufficient, organic, grass-fed dairy farms exemplify this. The larger grain-fed dairy operations in Michael Pollen's *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* are wrecking havoc in many ways.

The economic down turn is affecting many people. Local farmer-to-consumer sales support earned income in neighborhoods and communities. I believe local agricultural economies would steadily grow if the government could be friendlier to raw milk.

Please support the ordinary people who want real foods for their families and the small farmers who want to produce it for them. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.


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cc: Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission



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