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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

September 27, 2009

Attn: Paul Hoge
Pennsylvania Dept of Agriculture
Bureau of Food Safety
Division of Milk Sanitation
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg PA 17110-9408

Dear Mr. Hogue:

I am distressed to find that in Pennsylvania, the production and accessing of raw milk appears to exist in two not-very-parallel universes.

One universe is peopled with folks who have somehow gotten the authority to regulate raw milk producers. Some of their decisions at times make sense, like permitting the production and sale of raw milk to whomever would like to buy this eminently healthy food. At other times their decisions do not make sense, like not permitting the production and sale of raw milk products – yogurt, butter, etc – also eminently healthy foods.

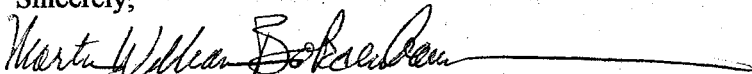
In this universe, the producers, if they submit to the inspection process and pass inspection, are then permitted to sell only what is allowable. Somehow, in this universe, healthful raw milk butter and healthful raw milk yogurt are viewed as toxic, whereas the nutritionally depleted and possibly toxic pasteurized milk of agri-business, with its bovine growth hormone, antibiotic and chemical fertilizer residues, is somehow allowable.

The second universe is peopled with folks who say that authority for producing and selling healthful raw milk, and other food products, is a right that farmers already have -- it's in the Constitution. And that if a farmer subjects him- or herself to a permitting process, he or she is giving up their rights. So it doesn't make sense, in this universe, to submit to certification. Why give up rights you have to an authority whose decisions don't make sense and which are possibly tainted by the influence of industrial ag?

You could put the two universes together, making one out of them, if you would work with the folks who have somehow gotten the regulatory authority to get them to use their authority more wisely:

- exempt from the regulations direct transactions from producers to consumers;
- safeguard healthful foods like raw milk and raw milk products;
- safeguard the small-scale farmers who produce the healthful foods and who are stewards of their lands and animals;
- safeguard consumer access to such healthful foods; and
- shield consumers from the nutritionally-depleted, tainted products of industrial ag, perhaps banning bovine growth hormone, perhaps banning CAFOs, perhaps requiring the grass-feeding of ruminants.

Sincerely,



Martin William Boksenbaum, Ph.D.