

**Testimony to the
Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources
February 12, 2020**

Chairman Kerschen, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.
I am appearing before you today on SB #300.

Chairman Kerschen, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Lynda Foster and I own and operate Foster Dairy in Fort Scott, Kansas, along with my husband, and son and his wife. We milk 175 cows and farm approximately 1000 acres. We are a Grade A Dairy that is regularly inspected. I am appearing before you today on SB300.

For years, my family grew up drinking raw milk and selling a little here and there to those who might want it and never gave it a thought. We conducted a lot of dairy tours and at the end of the tour would hand out glasses of raw milk to the kids so they could experience the taste and know that it had come from the cows they had just witnessed getting milked. However, that all changed about 30 years ago when I got a call from the Principal of a school that had just toured the dairy a few days before telling me they had some sick kids. One of the sick kid's dad was a doctor and he had run some tests and they were convinced that it was from the milk they had consumed at the dairy. I was horrified to think that my milk might have made them sick especially when my own two kids had consumed milk from the same containers we had used to serve the milk and they weren't sick. We immediately reached out to our dairy cooperative and were re-inspected again and passed that inspection. Our farm insurance paid out some doctor bills, but other than that, we were lucky that the students were only mildly sick.

This experience brought to the surface that Raw Milk is a known hazard. There is a reason why milk is pasteurized in the first place. Had I known back then what I know now I would never have given raw milk to those who toured the dairy, or those who stopped by wanting to buy raw milk. We quickly abandoned that practice and started purchasing milk for the dairy tours.

When I was on the National Dairy Board, I would get updates almost weekly on someone getting sick from the drinking of raw milk somewhere in the United States. One of the problems is, that when someone gets sick from drinking raw milk, it sometimes gets reported that the person got sick from milk. They leave the "raw" out of their reporting and this hurts the whole of the Dairy Industry.

While I personally feel that raw milk should not be sold and that a ban against it is in the best interests of the dairy industry in terms of food safety, I would be willing to compromise if at least those selling raw milk were inspected like all Grade A dairies to ensure the safety and quality of milk to those consuming it. I also feel that raw milk needs to be labeled as such and that it clearly states the potential hazards of consuming raw milk.

I hope we can agree that there are potential issues with the selling of raw milk the way it is now, without any oversight. Therefore, I support SB300. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for your attention. I would be happy to stand for questions.

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