



UNITED TO GROW
FAMILY AGRICULTURE

115 E Marlin Suite 108, Box 1064, McPherson, Ks. 67460 620-241-6630 kfum@nfiic.kscoxmail.com kansasfarmersunion.com

SB 308

Written testimony in opposition
Donn Teske, President, Kansas Farmers Union

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

2-13-20

Chairman Kerschen, Ranking Minority Member Francisco

Kansas Farmers Union stands in opposition to SB 308, An act concerning agriculture; relating to milk, cream and dairy products; on-farm retail sale of milk; labeling and advertising requirements.

Of course, if SB300 passes then we darn sure will support a modified SB 308 then...

Kansas Farmers Union believes the current labeling requirement for selling raw milk is adequate and that the practice offers an opportunity niche-market for value-added sales of raw milk & dairy products to a small, select group of consumers who know what they are buying and choose to take the associated risks of consuming un-pasteurized dairy products onto themselves.

We understand that SB 308 re-introduces legislation that will allow direct marketing of milk if SB 300 passes, but at a much greater challenge to the producer, making signage that is almost onerous. While not necessarily opposed to warning labels indicating the health risks associated with drinking raw milk, we feel 308 goes too far.

And what happens if SB 300 passes and SB 308 fails? Then is all farm-sales of dairy products outlawed? We, and all of our extended family, and most of our community drank milk directly from our bulk tank for 20 years. I took great pride in our cleanliness and our somatic cell count. I can completely understand the need for pasteurization in the commercial market, especially after touring a multi-thousand cow dairy in western Kansas, I left thanking god for pasteurization. But to deny the opportunity for a willing seller to sell to a knowing willing buyer seems contrary to our entrepreneurship spirit here in Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony,

Donn Teske