

February 20, 2020

Dear Senators,

SB308-Allowing the on-farm retail sale of raw, unpasteurized milk so long as certain labeling and advertising requirements are met.

If the milk customers were complaining about raw milk farmers and the milk being sold to them, then perhaps you need to sit up and take note. However, the only ones against the small raw milk producers are big, corporate organizations that apparently feel raw milk is honing in on their profits. That is simply not the case.

Labeling of raw milk is unnecessary. People are going to farms for the express purpose of purchasing raw milk. It does not need to be labeled raw milk. Generally reusable glass containers traded out on a regular basis are used, not cheap, plastic jugs. The health hazards are on the commercial milk. People purchasing raw milk are doing so because they have done their research and because they cannot or will not drink the processed milk that contains dozens of chemicals due to the feed and antibiotics the cows are fed. The majority of people purchasing raw milk will not go back to the store-bought milk. They know and understand the issues with milk coming from commercial dairies.

Raw milk “dairies” do not provide milk for hundreds of people, but regular customers, usually a limited number. This is quite different than going to a grocery store where there are many different brands and no one person in any one dairy company knows one cow from the next in these herds or if there might be an infection. Raw milk “farmers” are not large operations concerned about quantity, but typically side businesses that desire to share a quality product.

I milk two cows. I cannot even call my “operation” a business (or get tax breaks) since I do not generate enough income to make a profit. However, any extra milk I sell helps off-set the costs of the cows and helps other families who are conscious and mindful of their children’s health.

If raw milk sales were legal but required labeling, most small raw milk operations would be unable to sell their milk legally. These are not million dollar businesses. These are mostly part-time farms, and customers are seeking these farms out, desperate to find raw milk. Regulations are unnecessary. People purchasing raw milk are aware of the “risks” involved.

Everyone knows that smoking cigarettes can harm you physically and lead to death, yet it is legal. Why would people not be allowed to choose what type of milk they drink? Should there be legislation dictating what Kansans are allowed to consume?

Thank you for again taking time to read my comments.
Sincerely,

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