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Opposition to Senate Bill 346

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Dear Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources,

The first thing that caught my attention about this law is the definition of milk. I do appreciate this definition and I am pleased to see almonds, cocoanuts and other plants were *not* defined as milk or producers of milk. At what point will those plant based products be defined as juice?

The strict labeling in this law also caught my attention. When will almond, cocoanuts and other plant-based products be required to label their products as juice? Shouldn't those plant based meat substitutes be labeled as such? What about the high amounts of estrogen in soy based products? Shouldn't soy products have a warning label about the dangers of too much estrogen while consuming soy products?

How would this law affect interstate commerce? It is common for a citizen in a neighboring state to drive across the state line to buy products.

The section on fees makes me very uncomfortable. Is this like the Beef Check Off which is guaranteed income for organizations such as the Kansas Livestock Association, who doesn't really promote beef, protect beef producers but, does acquire property rights from debt-ridden and elderly producers through Conservation Easements?

I noted that that SB346 states there will be no change to licensing fees. By pulling raw milk into the pasteurized dairy industry through fees, I expect licensing will soon follow. How long before my neighbor will be required to obtain a license to sell goat milk to me? Even though I may only use it for orphaned calves? At a time of depleting store shelves, I do wonder how long before my neighbors and I start trading in black market....milk? How long before these regulations hit gardeners? Will we see black market cucumbers in the near future? Is this how Venezuela managed to starve an entire population in a climate that has 365 days in their growing season?

This brings me to the powers under the Secretary of Agriculture. Doesn't Kansas already have laws in place to protect consumers? Is it necessary to define it under new Raw Milk Regulation? Given that our current Agriculture Secretary was the Director of Ranchland Trust of Kansas, who purchases property rights, and is owned by Kansas Livestock Association, who appears to be aiding in the rip-off of Kansas beef producers; this whole section smells of opportunity to eliminate market competition through regulations.

Sincerely,

Angel Cushing