

Testimony HB1131

To the House Ag Committee,

Two years ago Representative Holle introduced a bill for raw milk to be sold directly to consumers and this has eliminated red tape for small farmers and supporters of the cottage foods industry. We'd like to thank him for the work that he has done in the previous session for this issue. We now come back once again and make sure that all raw milk products are included in this legislation.

These laws are not unreasonable and in line with good public health in the European Union they allow the sale of cheese products made from raw milk with minimal issues and have for decades. We at DRC support right-sized regulation for consumer products knowing that on a small scale when you interact with your customers you need to use best practices or you will quickly find yourself out of business. Opening up this market to small farmers to make their own raw milk products is a good way for them to diversify their portfolios and to create new markets for our family farms and other small food businesses.

We once again would like to ask for an amendment to this bill that would specifically label the product as Raw milk to avoid any confusion to consumers and a disclaimer that improperly stored products do pose a health risk. This will ensure a well-informed consumer, who can make smart decisions about what they are buying. Myself and the DRC would also like to see this amendment because it should help to quiet opponents of raw milk and help limit fearmongering. This would also give us an opportunity to educate consumers to grow our consumption of raw milk.

4. Requires a clear label

5 and 6 are language from the Cottage Foods law chapter 23-9. These two provisions would allow consumers to be aware of what they are consuming and have an avenue to file a complaint.

Amendment:

4. Raw milk or raw milk products shall be clearly labeled as "Raw milk" or "Made with raw milk"

5. The seller shall inform the end consumer that any raw milk product or food sold is not certified, labeled, licensed, packaged, regulated, or inspected.

6. The department of health and human services or a local regulating authority may conduct an investigation upon complaint of an illness or environmental health complaint.

Thank you for your consideration. We recommend a **DO PASS** of this bill.