

My name is Lisa Pulkrabek from District 31. Please DO PASS HB 1515 with amendment to remove “Grade A milk” and “Grade A permit”.

I am writing to you today because I care about HB 1515 regarding the sale of raw milk. Initially I was in favor of this bill. However, upon a bit more research, I feel that we need an amendment. Then I spoke with Rep. Holle about this and I think we are about on the same page now!

First of all I am in favor of the sale of safe, raw milk straight from the producer to the consumer. There are many well known health benefits of raw milk. I have included a few links to websites outlining many of these benefits.

<https://www.realmilk.com/>

<https://draxe.com/nutrition/raw-milk-benefits/>

<https://www.rawmilkinstitute.org/about-raw-milk/>

I am sure the state health dept. will be testifying against this bill citing the risks of foodborne illnesses contracted from drinking unpasteurized milk. The big milk borne disease outbreaks of the late 1800's early 1900's were due to horrible conditions of cows being housed in the middle of large cities, eating diseased food, getting sick and then the producers adding poisons such as formaldehyde and chalk to the milk to disguise it as fresh and safe. The stories of how many children died from back then are what fueled the “need” and acceptance of pasteurization. Had those cows been raised on safe and healthy pastures instead of crammed in a city eating the byproducts of , they would have been able to avoid those illnesses altogether. You can hear a bit about this in the short video below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YC0MSSHOsHE>

I tried to look up the numbers of illnesses for the last few years in ND. The numbers are there but on the website below there is no indication of what the causes or suspected causes of the illnesses were. Since there are many different ways of coming into contact with these pathogens beyond just drinking raw dairy we can make the case that not all of these illnesses are due to consumption of raw dairy. Those that choose to consume raw dairy products know the small risks they are taking, know what kind of illnesses to watch for and are generally inclined to treat those illnesses quickly, in the case that they present themselves.

<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/health/data>

<https://draxe.com/nutrition/9-myths-of-pasteurization-or-homogenization-better-options/>

Since SB2072 passed the ND legislature in 2013 and was signed into law by Gov. Dalrymple, consumers have been able to buy raw milk through “herd sharing programs”. These programs

are good but not good enough nor accessible to enough North Dakotans who want to buy raw milk.

For HB 1515, I am asking for an amendment. I would like to see the language mentioning "Grade A milk" and "Grade A permit" taken out OR add wording allowing any producer who does "animal shares" or "herd shares" also be able to sell raw milk by the gallon directly to customers who can't buy a share.

Here is my reasoning behind this thought process. Those who want to drink raw milk want it because of the health benefits. Many of these people prefer as close to organic food and beverage products as they can get because they are super health conscious and are trying to limit as many toxins and medicines as possible. They are trying to heal their bodies using food as medicine. Therefore they are seeking out small farms with the highest standards of safety (cleanliness of the animal and testing of the milk) but the least amount of hormones and antibiotics. However, many consumers don't want the hassle or can't afford the large share costs. They want to be just a "customer" and buy by the gallon. So discluding these small producers who are already following the 2013 SB2072 law and who are practicing very safe methods, we are tipping the scales toward the big Grade A producers. Herd sharing producers will see some of their business leave if this bill passes. People who don't want the shares will buy from Grade A producers and the small farms will suffer. If a herd share producer is providing safe enough milk to be within the legal limits now, then they will continue to be safe enough if the bill passes. Including these producers in the bill will help them to reach new customers.

I would like to see a bill that allows all producers a fair chance at selling raw dairy.

I like the requirement that the milk needs to be sold directly from producer to customer.

All herd share producers are already abiding by the following which is part of the SB 2072 law. They are required to notify the consumer that the milk is not pasteurized, potential pathogens may be present in the milk, there are potential health concerns associated with the consumption of raw milk or raw milk products.

Also, annually, they are required to provide consumers with the following information: the standards used to ensure the health of the milk - producing animals, the standards used to ensure the production of milk, the results of any tests performed on the milk - producing animals, together with an explanation of the test results and the results of any tests performed on the milk from the milk - producing animals, together with an explanation of the test results.

I think that that any producer, regardless of their grade, who wants to sell raw dairy should be required to follow those same requirements list in the last two paragraphs.

Again I kindly ask that you recommend a DO PASS on HB 1515 with the amendment Rep. Holle is proposing. Thanks so much for your efforts and dedication to ND.

Lisa Pulkrabek