

Good morning, Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name is Jeffrey Anderson. I ask for a DO pass on House Bill 1515 as it is currently written.

I have watched as my wife and my daughter have had issues consuming store bought dairy products. My daughter since birth had issues with formula. None of the doctors would listen to my wife. She went out on her own and got goats milk for our daughter to be on. There is nothing worse than listening to your child scream in agony and projectile vomit everything that has entered into her small body that is suppose to nourish it. However, once she was on the goats milk, it was a complete night and day difference. She was happy, slept, gained weight and best of all she grew. We got sleep. After she turned a year it was suggested she have whole milk. Against our better judgments, we did. Then came the rash accompanied by hives, stomach ache, and runny nose. This was just from one bottle.

My wife was dairy free for many years. When she was pregnant with our daughter, she was gifted a gallon of raw milk to try. For the first time in almost 12 years, she didn't get sick afterwards. She could no longer get milk from the farmer because they sold their cattle and got out of milking. 2 years ago she was able to find a farmer in Minnesota who she got raw milk from. She did wonderful as well as my daughter on it.

I grew up hearing horror stories about all the illnesses one could get from farm fresh eggs and raw dairy that I did not want to consume it. After seeing them thrive on the raw milk, I decided to give it a try. It was delicious! When my wife asked to purchase a dairy cow in October, I told her to go ahead and even encouraged her to get 2 extra jerseys. My daughter is thriving on the raw milk and my wife is making dairy products for us to consume at home.

My wife started offering herdshares. One thing she has voiced is there are people who want raw milk but because of their fixed income and with inflation of everything else, several are unable to pay the initial \$30 herdshare cost plus weekly of \$8 for boarding/feeding/milking just so individuals can access 1 gallon of milk while the cow is lactating. Also, if the owner wants more milk, they are required to purchase additional shares. So a family drinking 3 gallons a week would have to come up with \$98 for the first initial week.

My wife has had many owners comment on how they are finally able to have dairy or how their children are able to consume dairy when previously they were drinking soy/almond milk. Living on the eastern part of the state, there are only 2 large grade A dairy's. She is contacted weekly by people from Grand Forks and Fargo seeking raw milk. There is a high demand of raw milk and living close to MN, SD and even MT borders, many people who can't access a herdshare know they can find someone in one of those states to purchase raw milk from.

I see the work that goes into these animals on a small dairy herd. I see how she will gladly dump a bucket of milk from a cow if she's afraid there are some issues until she gets testing back. She like many others have their names tied to the milk.

I think this would be a wonderful opportunity, if given, to allow the sale of raw milk sales as a commodity in North Dakota.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I ask you to consider a YES on HB1515.

Thank you,
Jeffrey Anderson
Sharon, ND