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Testimony in support for HB1515

To the Honorable Chair and members of the Senate Ag Committee,

Mr. Chair,

The Dakota Resource Council would like to change their stance from oppose to supporting this bill now that the requirement for the grade A permit and the sale from the farm requirement have been removed. We would once again like to thank Representative Holle for being kind enough to work with us and others that sought that change.

Our primary concern for this bill is if there is language in our state or federal regulations that would have a requirement for a warning label for these products. We understand that raw milk has both good and bad qualities to it and that pasteurization was invented for a reason. However, with that being said we believe that the consumers should be able to make that choice. We would like to see the process of buying raw milk be similar to other establishments that serve raw or undercooked food, like sushi for example. These businesses usually have some sort of warning at their establishment that states eating raw foods can pose health risks. If no such laws exist it may be prudent for the committee to add language requiring a sign or warning at the point of sale informing consumers that the product they are purchasing poses a health risk if handled improperly.

We recommend DO PASS.