

Martin William Boksenbaum, Ph. D.
287 Long Lane Road, PO Box 216
Treichlers PA 18086-0216

RECEIVED

SEP 17 2007

HARRISBURG

15 September 2007

Senator Mike Brubaker, Chairman
Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
457 Main Capitol Building
Senate Box 203036
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3036

Senator Brubaker:

Thank you for seeking public testimony in connection with the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee's hearing on the production and sale of raw milk and its products. I am encouraged by the comments of Brian Snyder, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA), that "this hearing is a genuine moment when positive change can actually be possible in accordance with the will of the people." And I agree with him that "the issues involved go well beyond the sales of raw milk and its products, and extend to the future ability of people everywhere to obtain the freshest, most wholesome food directly from farmers who care deeply about the wellbeing of their customers."

There is a large body of evidence that raw milk and its products, especially from ruminants on pasture and 100% grass-fed, are important for good health (as discussed in the well-documented *The Untold Story of Milk: Green Pastures, Contented Cows and Raw Dairy Foods*, 2003, by Ron Schmid, ND). I personally consume such products on a daily basis, both through certified sources as well as from the "underground food movement" (as discussed in *The Revolution Will Not Be Microwaved: Inside America's Underground Food Movements*, 2006, by Sandor Ellix Katz). They are an essential part of my diet. Your committee would provide a great service to the people of our Commonwealth if it worked to make raw milk and its products more generally and more easily available.

Because of its great importance to health, raw whole milk is in growing demand. The people of the Commonwealth have a right to life-giving healthy food. And farms are meeting that demand. Sally Fallon of The Weston A. Price Foundation has written, "of how much good raw milk sales [have done] for the rural economy of Pennsylvania," of farms being "saved by sales of raw milk and other raw dairy products."

I am dismayed whenever good food is demonized as dangerous and, in the name of public health and safety, is required, by law, to be degraded and worse by pasteurization, irradiation, and more, or is banned outright. I am dismayed whenever we are urged, via "corporate-government collusions and delusions" as Katz has said, to use the nutrient-deficient if not toxic offerings of industrial agriculture and industrial food-processing. We need to protect what sustains us, to say, "Leave our food alone! We have a right to healthy food!"

I urge the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee to work toward legislation that enables the people of our Commonwealth to more readily access raw milk and its products.

Sincerely,



Martin William Boksenbaum, Ph.D.