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HARRISBURG

September 14, 2007

Senator Mike Brubaker, Chairman  
Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee  
457 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pa 17130-3036

We moved 29 years ago from a 100 cow dairy farm in eastern Indiana to Conewago Township in Dauphin County. We lived for 16 years at Aberdeen Mills on the Lancaster/Dauphin County line and bought one of the original Bachman homes in Bachmanville 13 years ago. Our daughter, Rebecca Weybright, lives with her family in Lancaster and our son lives in Lawn in SW Lebanon County. At age 14, Micah worked mornings, evenings, weekends and summers for a local dairy farmer. Sondra and I are retired, devoting our time to yard, garden, and grandkids. Sondra is retired from teaching instrumental music for the Lower Dauphin School District and plays violin with the Hershey Symphony Orchestra. We are life members of PASA and the Tri County Conewago Watershed Association where I am a member of the Board.

If we cannot obtain raw milk from a neighboring farmer, we buy *organic* at the grocery store. When I was milking in Indiana, we tried to keep antibiotics out of the milk but were not always successful. Manure from dirty udders routinely contaminated the milk. The farm where we milked 100 has expanded to milk 500 round the clock with employees who generally do not speak English and work for minimum wage with no benefits. The quality of the milk coming off that farm must be comparable to all those putting milk in the silos of the milk cooperative where they all ship.

We raise all the food we can, subscribe to a CSA [Community Supported Agriculture—Spiral Path Farm in Perry County], buy from road side stands and local farmers. The legislature has decided to allow motorcyclists to ride without helmets deeming individual freedom more important than commonly accepted standards of safety. Please honor our right to buy from our neighbors and allow all consumers to take whatever chances they deem necessary.

Sincerely,



Benjamin F. Simmons  
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Hershey 17033