

Little Mill Creek Goats
Goats, Goat Milk Fudge, Milk, Feta and
Chevre

Cliff and Jeanette Stump

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"Live Simply So Others Can Simply Live"
Ghandi



Jeanette E. Stump
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September 11, 2007

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SEP 14 2007

HARRISBURG

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

Dear Senator Brubaker,

I understand that the Pennsylvania Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on the production and sale of raw milk and its products on Tuesday, September 18, 2007.

I urge you to attend this upcoming hearing that will impact the constituents of Pennsylvania, including ourselves.

We have a small dairy goat farm in rural, north central Pennsylvania. We have been milking goats for three years and using the raw milk for human consumption. We have not experienced any ill effects from the raw milk but rather have experienced improved health. Some of our family members experienced severe bowel disorders and have been helped my drinking raw milk. Our little four month old granddaughter had a severe reaction to infant formulas therefore we began giving her raw goat milk. She is thriving beautifully and hasn't been sick since she began drinking it.

If you have done any research on raw milk versus pasteurized milk I think you will find the studies alarming. When milk is pasteurized many useful enzymes and bacteria are destroyed in the process. I'm concerned about legislation that seeks to ban raw milk production on family farms. If this happens it would take away our constitutional freedom to decide for ourselves what is best for our health.

Raw milk sales would also help the economy in rural areas, helping farmers save their family farms by providing added income to their business. There is an increased market for raw milk as consumers are becoming more informed about health issues and want to know that the milk they drink is free from antibiotics, hormones and full of healthy enzymes. These consumers have a constitutional right to enter into private contractual agreements fully informed of the pros and cons of drinking raw milk. There shouldn't be regulations on what a farmer can sell from his property. It should be up to the consumer to visit the farm and determine for themselves whether or not appropriate practices are being used in the cleanliness of the milk production. If the milk is sold from a retail outlet then the USDA has a responsibility to monitor the milking practices of the farmer.

Sincerely,

Jeanette E. Stump