

I have been a consumer of raw milk and butter for quite some time - since approximately 2002. I discovered that the food was extremely nutrient dense, and I felt the producers that I dealt with - who were quite healthy - would produce the food very cleanly. I brought from several farmers that followed the guidelines. According to the Centers for Disease Control, raw butter had never had a single foodborne illness outbreak from 1998 to 2016 from commercially produced raw butter. I believe it is one of the most healthful products that exist. The sale and or distribution of raw butter is currently legal in 11 other states, and the passage of this bill would allow dairy farmers to make a living and stem the decline in the number of Oregon dairy farmers which has dropped significantly over the past several years.

Consumer demand for locally-produced foods like raw butter continues to grow especially now when individuals are discovering the benefits and cost of locally-grown produce. Unfortunately, there is a ban on the possibility of purchasing raw butter presently and I've had to deal with other states in order to get raw butter which costs the dairy industry revenue, and it can be expensive for me. I feel it is a superior product to the pasteurized version. This move would keep more of the food dollar in the state and make for healthier citizenry which would also boost the economy. Healthy people are happier people.

Thank you so much for your consideration in this.