

I am in support of legalizing butter made from raw milk. As a citizen of the United States of America governed by a Constitution that allows us freedom, it is appalling that a bill is even needed to legalize it. People in a free nation should have the right to choose the foods they want to put into their bodies. Sadly, those who profit from people putting toxic food in their bodies, and who lose profits when people choose to put healthy food in their bodies, are the biggest political contributors and instead of representatives representing their constituents, they represent those industries who fund their campaigns and other things. This is why lobbying should be abolished. All that being said, here are some additional reasons, which really shouldn't be needed in a free nation, for legalizing butter made from raw milk:

Processed dairy has an inflammatory effect on the majority of the population, increasing illness and disease. Raw dairy does not have this same effect. Raw milk has superior nutrition and significant health benefits over pasteurized milk. Raw milk contains greater bioavailable nutrients than pasteurized milk, as well as a wide array of beneficial enzymes and probiotics which are known to have benefits on the immune system and gastrointestinal tract. Here is an article with some great information that includes citations. www.rawmilkinststitute.org. I could not enter the entire link, search for "letter to medical professionals."

Raw butter has an excellent track record for food safety. The Centers for Disease Control has a database tracking foodborne illness outbreaks from 1998 to 2016; during that time there has not been a single foodborne illness outbreak attributed to the consumption of commercially produced raw butter. Neither have there been any foodborne illness outbreaks linked to raw butter consumption since 2016. The sale and or distribution of raw butter is currently legal in 11 other states, including California where one dairy, Raw Farm, formerly Organic Pastures Dairy Company, has sold over 2 million pounds of raw butter over the past 20 years without incident.

Passage of HB 2612 would better enable dairy farmers to make a living and could help stem the decline in the number of Oregon dairy farms. In 1992 Oregon had 1,900 farms with dairy cows, according to USDA data; the latest figures from the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association shows there are 194 dairy farms left in the state.

Consumer demand for locally produced foods like raw butter continues to grow. With the current ban on raw butter, Oregon residents travel to California to purchase raw butter, costing the dairy industry revenue. Passage of HB 2612 would keep more of the food dollar within the state.

Thank you for your consideration,
Robin Eacret