

January 24, 2023

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, and members of the committee,

My name is Carla Phillips and I'm thrilled to write in support of [HB 2616](#).

As a past producer of clean, tested raw milk, current farmer, and consumer of raw milk, I want to make sure that Oregon's dairy industry follows the best possible standards across the board, especially around raw milk.

Unfortunately, Oregon's raw milk regulations are falling behind — it is time to revisit and upgrade our outdated raw milk laws.

Myself and my family have consumed raw milk since 2003 and for many years, I sold clean, tested raw milk here at Phillips Family Farm until I closed my on-site Farm Store in 2021.

I have many past customers who still reach out to me, as recently as yesterday, looking for a source of raw milk; trying to understand why many Oregon family farms aren't able to stay productive and sustainable.

I can also attest to the real-life benefits of raw milk and its healing through my own story and through the stories of many of my customers.

We all need the rights and access to local, raw milk.

We need our farmers to be able to safely and sustainably supply that access without burden to the consumer, our communities, and rural roadways. Raw milk farmers also need the ability to secure the appropriate insurance as most farm policies and endorsement specifically exclude raw milk.

If passed, HB 2616 will ensure that Oregon producers are able to meet the growing demands for raw milk in our state safely and effectively, by implementing nationally-recognized testing, safety and risk mitigation measures and giving cow dairies the same opportunities that goat and sheep dairies already have.

For licensed dairies, raw cow's milk is currently off the table. Oregon allows the retail sale of raw milk from sheep and goats, but not from cows — no other state makes this distinction in the retail market. It's time to fix this discrepancy *and* improve the safety, testing and training standards for raw milk production across the board — whether you're milking goats, sheep or cows.

For smaller licensed-exempt producers, HB 2616 offers critical upgrades as well. If passed, this legislation will give small cow dairies new possibilities to grow, expand their business and reach more consumers in this growing industry. HB 2616 will also allow small

producers more flexibility in how they get their products to their consumers — eliminating the burdensome requirement that sales transactions take place on-site. These small, common-sense upgrades will help both Oregon's farmers and the customers they serve.

As a consumer I am beyond thrilled to see this bill before your committee!

Passing this bill will allow me to continue to access raw milk locally. It will save our small Oregon Farms and their families. Without this bill, I fear that raw milk will no longer be sustainable for them leaving a huge hole in our local food system.

Oregon's raw milk policies are out of date and it's time for a change. This legislation will raise the raw milk standards in Oregon and ensure better transparency, access and accountability across the board.

I urge your support for HB 2616.

Thank you,  
Carla Phillips