

Submitter: Paula Fisher

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and  
Water

Measure: HB2616

I support this bill for the following reasons:

1. Raw milk has a good track record for safety; a recent study found that as raw milk consumption has increased in the U.S., the number of foodborne illnesses attributed to raw milk has remained flat or gone down. The testing, certification and food safety plan requirements for producers selling in retail stores assure a supply of safe, clean milk. Raw milk products like butter and kefir have little or no record of making anyone sick.

2. The bill increases access for consumers to raw milk products and increases the number of raw milk products they can now legally purchase. More and more consumers prefer natural food products.

3. The bill increases markets for micro-dairies and can potentially help some of the dairies that are currently producing raw milk for pasteurization remain in business. Fewer than 200 Grade A dairies remain in Oregon today.