

Submitter: Lisa Davis

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2616

Dear Committee members,

I am writing in support of HB 2016. I support legalization of raw dairy products without restriction. I have been consuming raw milk for almost 20 years and have fed this to my baby (who is now a healthy teenager). I have purchased directly from several farms in Lane County. The restrictions on raw milk in Oregon are unnecessary and make it difficult for farmers to make a profit.

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.

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.

Clean raw milk is a wonderfully safe and nutritious food!

Sincerely,

Lisa Davis