

Submitter: Eli Dumitru

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB2616

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

My name is Eli Dumitru. I own stock in an Oregon farm. I want to be able to buy raw milk products just like any other products. I am disgusted that the State of Oregon has taken the position that it has the right to tell me what kind of food I can and cannot buy with the excuse that it "might" not be safe. This is clearly a case of big agriculture corporations using the power of the State to squash their competition. This combination of corporate and State power is the definition of fascism. I am anti-fascist and I want the State of Oregon to support it's people, not the interests of big corporations.

Please pass HB 2616 which will implement nationally-recognized testing, safety and risk mitigation measures and giving cow dairies the same opportunities that goat and sheep dairies already have. Of course, this will mean you will have to stand up against big Ag in favor of the people of Oregon. Can you do that?

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.

I urge your support for HB 2616.

Thank you,  
Eli Dumitru