

Submitter: Naomi Richard

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2616

For too long access to healthy, raw dairy products for the majority of the population has been stifled by over regulation and uninformed legislation. This has also shackled the small-time farmer, as in order to be successful on a smaller scale, you have to diversify what you offer. Starting a large scale dairy operation is cost, labor and land prohibitive. Certain geographic areas may not be able to support several large operations either. Large loans would put unnecessary pressure and stress on starting up such a venture. A small farm, however, can grow into their market, being able to safely and sustainably manage a small herd of dairy animals to add to other farm offerings (such as eggs, produce, soaps, etc) can increase benefit not only to the farm families, but also access for the growing health-conscious population. It will also help bring the price of raw milk down due to less expensive restrictions and micromanagement from government that isn't involved in dairy operations, nor has inside knowledge of what is best for each farm situation. Every farmer I know, ourselves included, take great precautions to mitigate contamination of food products, and have the ability to quality check everything sold, which may be only possible to spot check in a larger scale operation. Please consider easing the burden of unnecessary bureaucracy and allow citizens to make their own dietary and sustainability choices in the food they buy, and farmers to manage and market their own dairy products without undue hardship.