

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

I'm writing in support of HB 2616. It's been frustrating trying to get access to raw milk. Although it's been difficult to get a hold of, my face breaks out less when I do get access to milk un-pasteurized. I enjoy drinking milk, but it's not good for me in it's ultra-pasteurized form.

Not having easy access to raw milk has been frustrating. I've had to jump through all these hoops to get access to it. There must be a way to make raw milk more accessible. Other food is tested for quality, there must be a way to do it for raw milk as well. Most farms are out of the way and the only milk that's easily available, ultra-pasteurized, is the type I have an adverse reaction to.

Many of the benefits of raw milk are destroyed in the ultra-pasteurized process. As someone with chronic health issues, having access to the nutrients with without the adverse reaction from ultra-pasteurized milk is important to me.

This bill will also benefit micro-dairies. Fewer than 200 Grade A dairies remain in Oregon today. Also, there are plenty of cultures around the world that use raw milk. Having access to raw milk that is prepared in a safe way is a tradition that needs to be preserved.

Thank you for considering what I have to say. I know you will make the right decision.

Sincerely,

Camille Kiefel