

Submitter: ED FINE

On Behalf Of: Lane Families for Farms and Forests

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

Measure: HB2616

January 25th 2023,

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

My name is Ed Fine, President of Lane Families for Farms and Forests, and on behalf of our organization, I'm testifying in opposition to HB 2616. Lane Families for Farms and Forests is a non-profit organization committed to harnessing support for Lane County's rich heritage of agriculture and forestry, two cornerstones of our local community. Together, we work toward preserving the thriving agriculture and forestry industries in Lane County for generations to come.

As a community of farmers and natural resource advocates, we strive toward safe stewardship of the land, livestock, and the products we produce that go to market for consumption. We are also proud that the mission of the Oregon Department of Agriculture Food Safety Program is to help prevent the spread of foodborne illness.

The sale of raw milk would increase the chances of spreading foodborne illness and jeopardize the safety of consumers of all ages but especially adults 65 years and older, children younger than five years, and people with weakened immune systems.

When we as a society are intentionally looking to reduce negative impacts on our vulnerable populations, why would we introduce products to market that are proven to put them at risk of illness?

Experiencing illness from raw milk does not just result in diarrhea, stomach cramping, and vomiting. According to the CDC raw milk can cause paralysis by Guillain-Barré syndrome, which can cause paralysis, or Hemolytic uremic syndrome, leading to kidney failure, stroke, and even death.

Proponents attempt to justify the raw milk market for health benefits; however, according to the CDC, pasteurized milk offers the same benefits to humans as raw milk without the risk of disease. Additionally, currently testing for raw milk cannot detect low contamination levels. Therefore, contaminated raw milk could pass an inspection and still cause someone to become sick.

As promoters of responsible stewardship and safe markets, Lane Families for Farms and Forests does not support the sale of raw milk in Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We respectfully ask that you not support this harmful bill that jeopardizes Oregon's commitment to safe food safety and illness prevention.

Warm regards,

Ed Fine, President  
Lane Families for Farms and Forests  
PO Box 8214 Coburg OR 97408