

Submitter: Christine Anderson

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB2616

My name is Christine Anderson and I have been a raw milk producer for the past 15 years on my farm called Cast Iron Farm. I am thrilled with the changes to our raw milk regulation as provided for in HB 2616.

I testified in person, but I would like to supplement that testimony with some additional information.

Since the uncertainties in the food supply that were precipitated by the Covid -19 pandemic, people in Oregon have been reaching out to farmers such as myself to provide them with a fresh and local product that both nourishes them and connects them to the land. Nearly every day I get a phone call from someone asking if we can provide them with milk.

You heard opposing testimony from the Oregon Farm Bureau saying that they were in opposition to raw milk. However, their 2022 rule book rule 10.4100 states: " Raw milk production for sale should be regulated for food safety registration and inspection requirements. We oppose proposals that would require the pasteurization of all milk to be used in fluid or processed form." I believe that we are asking for requirements that meet that threshold in this bill.

Additionally, in December of 2022, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau (America's second highest producing dairy state after California) voted and changed their stance regarding raw milk deciding to support its sale with some regulation oversight.

Allowing raw milk to be delivered to a drop point would help battle climate change and traffic on our rural roads. Currently, we serve 75 families who get milk regularly from our farm, that is 75 cars on our rural road consistently. If I could take my milk to a farmer's market, that traffic could reduce down to one single trip on the same road.

A few years ago, Oregon voted to decriminalize hard drugs on our streets. Right or wrong, the fact remains that currently if I were to deliver cocaine to downtown Portland, I would not face any civil or criminal penalty but if I were to deliver a gallon of properly chilled raw milk to a farmer's market in Portland, I could face a hefty fine and jail time.

A common stance against raw milk is that it is unsafe, as you indeed heard from the Oregon Public Health Authority. However, the state of Oregon has not seen one

single raw milk illness in the past 10 years. Not one. I have worked tirelessly with RAWMI and other Oregon producers to bring up the quality of raw milk production in Oregon and this fact shows that it can be done. This is even in addition to the fact that as a state we permitted broader access to raw milk as effective January 1, 2016 the advertising ban on raw milk was repealed. We did not see an increase of illness related to raw milk after that.

There are many informed consumers in our state who are seeking out access to raw milk, we can provide this to them safely. I urge you to vote HB2616 out of committee.

Thank you!