

Submitter: Bridget Malone

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB2616

My family has greatly benefited from consuming raw milk. We were unfamiliar with all the health benefits until we had to start researching because of issues that popped up in our family. Once we did research and found farmers who doing amazing work, we could never go back! The relationships we've formed with the farmers has also opened up a whole network of friendships where we now source the majority of our meat and eggs, in addition to the raw milk. Supporting local farmers is so important!

1. Raw milk has a good track record for safety; a recent study found that as raw milk consumption has increased in the U.S., the number of foodborne illnesses attributed to raw milk has remained flat or gone down. The testing, certification and food safety plan requirements for producers selling in retail stores assure a supply of safe, clean milk. Raw milk products like butter and kefir have little or no record of making anyone sick.
2. The bill increases access for consumers to raw milk products and increases the number of raw milk products they can now legally purchase.
3. The bill increases markets for micro-dairies and can potentially help some of the dairies that are currently producing raw milk for pasteurization remain in business. Fewer than 200 Grade A dairies remain in Oregon today.