



High Plains Ponderosa Dairy LLC  
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I am writing in support of the bill to ban raw milk sales in Kansas. For the past 3 years I have been a dairy farmer in Plains KS, but for the prior 20 years I worked in the dairy industry throughout the US and around the world. As a dairy farmer I take great pride in providing a wholesome and nutritious product to consumers that is natural, safe to consume and free of antibiotics.

I am very much against the sale of raw milk. There are 19 states that ban raw milk sales outright, and for good reasons. Consuming raw milk is known to increase the risk of food borne illness. As an industry we should not provide a product to consumers that compromises safety without any benefits backed by science. I don't think there is any question that if raw milk consumption increased, food borne illness from milk would increase. I don't know that most consumers would understand the difference between raw milk and pasteurized milk. It might be misunderstood as simply "milk", and an outbreak of illness from raw milk consumption could threaten sales of pasteurized milk, not to mention sicken unknowing consumers.

A warning label is insufficient to mitigate this risk. If there were proven health or other benefits to raw milk consumption, it would be reasonable to assess the risk and reward. It seems clear that there is great risk with no proven benefit.

I cannot state strongly enough that I am fully in support of Kansas becoming the 20<sup>th</sup> state to ban raw milk sales.

Respectfully,

Greg Bethard, Ph.D.

CEO, High Plains Ponderosa Dairy LLC