



UNITED TO GROW
FAMILY AGRICULTURE

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SB 300

Written testimony in opposition
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Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

2-12-20

Chairman Kerschen, Ranking Minority Member Francisco

Kansas Farmers Union stands in opposition to SB 300, An act concerning agriculture; relating to milk and dairy products; prohibiting the on-farm retail sales of milk or milk products.

Kansas Farmers Union believes the current labeling requirement for selling raw milk is adequate and that the practice offers an opportunity niche-market for value-added sales of raw milk to a small, select group of consumers who know what they are buying and choose to take the associated risks of consuming un-pasteurized dairy products onto themselves.

The Kansas Farmers Union opposes SB 300 and stands in support of small dairies legal right to sell dairy products (raw and pasteurized) directly to consumers. We understand the public's demand for such products and the needed farm revenue from these direct-to-consumer sales.

We understand that SB 308 re-introduces legislation that will allow direct marketing of milk, but at a much greater challenge to the producer, forcing signage that is almost onerous. While not necessarily opposed to warning labels indicating the health risks associated with drinking raw milk we feel 308 goes too far.

And what happens if SB 300 passes and SB 308 fails? Then is all farm-sales of dairy products outlawed? We, and all of our extended family, and most of our community drank milk directly from our bulk tank for 20 years. I took great pride in our cleanliness and our somatic cell count. I can completely understand the need for pasteurization in the commercial market, especially after touring a multi-thousand cow dairy in western Kansas, I left thanking god for pasteurization. But to deny the opportunity for a willing seller to sell to a knowing willing buyer seems contrary to our entrepreneurship spirit here in Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony,

Donn Teske