

Senate Bill 308

OPPONENT

Good morning Chairman and committee. My name is Daniel King and I am a fourth generation dairy farmer and consumer of raw milk. My wife and I own and operate Jako Farm near Hutchinson, Kansas, which has been in my family since 1921.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to discuss SB 308 and the grave impact this legislation would make on my family, my business, and our 300+ customers. The extreme labeling requirements are unnecessary and only strive to confuse consumers and place unfair targets on raw milk.

According to a recent report in the Public Library Of Science by independent research of the data from the CDC, consumers are 3 times more likely to die from pasteurized milk than from raw milk. And yet pasteurized milk carries no such similar labeling requirements as SB 308 is proposing.

Customers who purchase raw milk are smart, educated, and knowledgeable about the foods they are choosing for their families. They choose raw milk because of health benefits. My customers can see my cows, my milking and processing facility. They can see that our farm is clean and sanitary. As a producer, my customers understand that when raw milk is properly prepared and handled it doesn't need a warning label.

My livelihood depends on my customers' trust of me and our farm. We would not exist without proper and healthy handling of raw milk. If my milk was dangerous and unhealthy, customers would stop buying it from me. Since raw milk is only available from the farm, it is less convenient. It is not being purchased by accident. Consumers don't need a warning label on raw milk to help them make an informed choice.

SB 308 is purely an attack against raw milk. This bill unfairly makes raw milk producers declare a warning on a product when it isn't granted. I oppose this bill.

-Daniel King  
Jako Farm

<http://currents.plos.org/outbreaks/article/recent-trends-in-unpasteurized-fluid-milk-outbreaks-legalization-and-consumption/>