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To the State of Kansas Senate Agriculture & Natural Resource Committee

RE: SB 308 On-farm Labeling and Advertising requirements of raw milk.

I have worked in Agriculture for over thirty years, I have a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science with an emphasis in Livestock Production management, so I am fairly well educated. I am also a consumer of raw milk and raw milk products. As a consumer, I assume all responsibility for the food I chose to eat. I know the benefits and the risks and still chose to consume raw milk as I trust my raw milk producer. The average raw milk consumer is also educated and have researched the many benefits of raw milk and they also acknowledge the risks. There is no denying that there are occasional outbreaks of food-borne illnesses in raw milk consumption, however, the trends and data suggest that the number of outbreaks are much lower than one would expect. I have provided some data in the packet I provided you and I won't spend time on something you can read. I have also added a page with links to data you can look into, if you chose to do so, it is your responsibility, not mine, to do your research, much as it is the consumer's responsibility. One thing to consider is, the rise in consumption of raw milk and raw milk products is growing and it is due to the consumer's desire to have a product that is unadulterated by processes that denature some beneficial enzymes in milk during pasteurization.

The proposed warning label that should be on all containers of raw milk and raw milk products has some problems. The first problem is that some consumers, such as I, bring our own containers to pick up raw milk. Is it the farmer's responsibility to put a warning label on my containers? I think not, I understand the risks and benefits of consuming raw milk and I would be upset if someone put labels on my personal containers. In addition, is it the farmer's responsibility that I sanitize my containers before they are filled with milk? No, I am ultimately responsible for my personal containers and it is my choice to decide if they are clean enough to put the raw milk or milk products into them.

The wording of the label is also problematic in my opinion. First, the warning is very long and it requires that the size of the warning match the size of the largest font on the package. I will demonstrate the lack of logic in this label and I will add that even on a package of cigarettes, the warning label is in a much smaller font than that of the brand name on the package. Raw milk is not as dangerous as cigarettes and yet the font of the warning must match the largest font of the package. Where is the room to put nutritional information, serving size or where the product is produced? There is not enough room for it all. An option that might work better for all involved would be signage at the farm that the consumer can see above the product or a release form that can be signed on a yearly or five-year basis, would be a much better idea.

The warning label wording is not correct. It states "contains **ungraded raw milk**". According to my understanding of the Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO), which is a Standard set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration; a dairy farm must meet these Standards to qualify as a Grade "A" milk producer. The milk is not graded when it is picked up by the Processor, it is considered Grade "A" milk as long as the farm follows the sanitation



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and other requirements in the PMO for Grade "A" producers. So the raw milk is actually Grade "A" if they are a farm that adheres to the Grade "A" Standards.

Raw milk consumption is on the rise and it is the God-Given Right of the Producer to chose to sell milk to Consumers who chose to seek out raw milk. It is the Consumer's God-Given rights to make choices for their family and themselves as to what they consider safe and nutritious to consume. The State should not infringe on those rights. In some cases, the choice of consuming raw milk is not a choice but a necessity by those who are lactose intolerant to processed milk. They can consume raw milk without any digestive issues. There are also those who cannot consume cows milk in any form and rely on raw goat's milk and goat milk products as their only way to consume dairy. Who should take away those God-Given rights? No one. The God -Given Rights to Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness are those things that do not harm anyone but may or may not harm yourself. By handing a raw milk Producer, money for the raw milk, the consumer is taking upon themselves the burden of responsibility. The State should not infringe on the consumer's rights, nor should milk processors pressure the government to push through legislation that allows them to have the monopoly on all the raw milk in the State. No company should have power over the People such as milk processors are attempting to do by this bill.