

# MARY POWELL

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To: Kansas Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Topeka Kansas

RE: Senate Bill 346

Dear Senators,

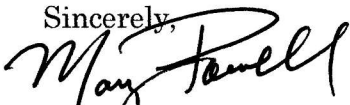
I am a raw milk consumer. I have friends who produce and sell raw milk and their products. Consumers of Raw Milk and products **choose** to consume them because we **understand** the health benefits. Do you think we are not also aware of the risks of consuming Raw milk and its products? The government does not need to hold the consumer's hand in making choices, we prefer the **freedom to choose** what we consume. All that is needed on a package is "Raw milk" or "Made with Raw Milk" as Raw Milk consumers have studied the pros and cons of consuming these products.

"Secretary Powers to Declare Imminent Health Hazard" is an ominous addition to the bill. This addition is worded in a way that the whole raw milk sector of Kansas could be shut down because of even a suspicion of concern. If a farm has issues, economics will dictate if it remains in production, because the **consumer will not purchase** a product that makes them ill, and they will find another farm that sells Raw Milk. Wording of this part of SB 346, is too vague and could easily be used as an excuse to prevent the sale of Raw Milk if pressure is put on individuals in position who have those powers to do so.

The State Veterinarian already has powers to declare or shut farm production down if there is a disease or health issue that could be passed on to the consumer, whether it be a single or multiple farms, to prevent epidemic type situations. In addition, the USDA also has rules in place to take care of infectious disease issues. I do not need to remind anyone on your committee that the People of Kansas have had enough mandates, let alone legislation, that allows overreach by State and Federal Governments. We do not need additional legislation on this matter as it is already in place!

Thank you for your time and if you have questions or would like to visit with me about my testimony, you may contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely,



Mary Powell, B.S. Animal Science, Livestock Production Management