

Submitted for written testimony for bills 6313 and 6312

To Whom it May Concern,

Thank you for your attention to this letter. As a constituent in Middletown, your service to the Connecticut State Legislature on my behalf is something I value. Therefore, I am writing to you to request that you /do not/ support the acts regarding Raw Milk being presented.

Legislation regarding food consumption should have as its primary goals the protection of citizens from negligence, their right to choose foodstuff they feel best suits them and the well-being of food producers. This is not generally the case. Through their lobbies, large agribusinesses have made it impossible for consumers to decide what's best for them and have deterred small farmers from maintaining the financial stability to stay in business. The proposed act will severely limit the ability of the engaged consumer to purchase products which they /rely/ upon for their nutrition, and will prohibit our farmers from keeping their livelihoods. The current legislation acknowledges that less than half of one percent of milk purchased in Connecticut is raw retail milk. Many farmers and their families will suffer irreparable financial damage without serious changes to the current legislation.

Please help us keep the freedom to purchase raw milk with no additional burden upon our farmers. Perhaps a different type of bill or regulation, written in consultation with raw milk farmers would be more appropriate. Food choice is a freedom that should be promoted and protected by legislation. I urge you not to support proposed legislation, but to continue support our freedom to choose.

Sincerely Yours,

Sarah-Jane Ripa
19 Johnson Street
Middletown, CT 06457
Tel: (646) 523-0868
Email: sripa@wesleyan.edu
