

Murdo, Patricia

Subject: FW: Save the 12-Day milk rule !

From: Tana Oyler
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:27 PM
To: Murdo, Patricia
Subject: Save the 12-Day milk rule !

Attention committee:

My Name is Tana Oyler. My husband Mark distributes dairy products to Phillips County. We could buy dairy products from any company but choose to carry Meadow Gold because the company has a processing plant in Montana and still buys milk from Montana Dairy Farmers. In our area that means something. My grandfather and uncles were dairy farmers.

We service the stores, restaurants, schools, nursing home and hospital. We take pride in knowing the milk we sell is fresh and good for up to 14 days after our customers receive it, and their customers take it home.

My friends at Loring and Zortman can buy 4-5 gallons of milk and take it home for their families and it will be good until they come to town again. Please don't let anyone change this. Rural Montana consumers like the fact that they don't have to worry about getting fresh milk that will last to supply their needs. The rural schools we service like Whitewater and Turner only get milk once a week; they need to be assured that milk is its freshest when they get it.

I don't understand why the sell by date is a problem; it leaves the decision up to the consumer. I read Core-Mark's statement in the petition for judicial review, the date is confusing; seriously, it will be a lot more confusing if you change it. Montanans know what "sell by" means. Are you going to go after meat and bread next? They also have a sell by date. I think it is understood that anything sold fresh has a sell by date.

I deliver the mail to Whitewater and Loring area. Those people are very concerned but they don't have time to write letters or go to Helena, they are in the middle of calving. I'm sure it is the same for all of rural Montana. Look at Wyoming, the average price of milk is higher than Montana and there is not less "dump" as Core-Mark stated. I have spent hours reading everything I could find on this issue and I just don't understand why this is even being considered when the only benefit is to save out of state companies money. I know some convenience stores think this is going to save them money with more time on the shelf for sales but stocking a wider range of dates will be a nightmare. It won't take long for the consumer to make the trip to Walmart and Costco to get the fresher milk because of the high turnover.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you will consider my statements.

Tana Oyler

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