

Dear Economic Affairs Committee

I am writing you after learning Montana has a sell- by date on gallons of milk. I recently moved here from Oregon and was complaining to the store clerk about the price of milk. We were paying \$1.99 to \$2.49 down there. It is close to \$4 here. I have 5 kids and go through lots of milk. The clerk told me the price was higher in Montana because of the sell by rule. They went on to say due lack of competition the dairy processors can charge what they want to the stores. The clerk also said the store has to pass on the cost of all the milk they throw away to the customer. He said it was a stupid law but has been that way since he has been in the grocery business. He went on to say sometime when the milk trucks shows up they only have 5 to 7 days left on the milk. My wife and I always look for at least 7 days on our milk when we buy it. We have bought some here with as little as 3 or 4 because it was marked down to \$1.99 that must be why it was so cheap. He did tell me your committee was looking at changing the law I really hope so being the father of 5 kids. I am not sure who the short date helps but the price of milk in Montana is not helping my family.

Thanks for your time.



Zeb Ford