

Murdo, Patricia

Subject: FW: Please give to Economic Affairs Committee

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From: See Below

Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2014 12:59 PM

To: Murdo, Patricia

Subject: Please give to Economic Affairs Committee

To the Economic Affairs Committee,

I would like to ask that you support keeping Montana's 12-day milk rule.

I was going to go to Helena on the 27th to voice my support for it, but heard that there would be limited time. I decided that it would be better to send a letter that you can read when you have ample time.

I am very concerned about your committee changing this rule. First, I am insulted that your committee assumes that I don't know the difference between "sell" and "use". I understand that our rule is a sell-by date and that the milk is good past this date. After researching this issue, I have learned that it was the consumers that demanded a "sell-by" date.

I am from a rural area where dates are very important to me and my neighbors. We don't run to the store on daily-bases; therefore, we need to know that the milk we purchase is fresh. I have been a banker in the Roundup area for forty years and have watched our local stores struggle to stay alive. I feel that changing will hurt them as well. Once I heard this issue was being brought up again, I decided to do some research on it.

I have been told that people are concerned that the Board of Livestock did not properly address this issue. That is simply not true. Minutes from the Board of Livestock prove that they discussed this issue in depth. It also proves that everyone who wanted to voice their concern had ample opportunity to do so. I also find it distributing that you as legislators are trying to change a rule that is currently in litigation. I asked why you didn't wait until the Supreme Court got done deciding this issue. I was told that it wouldn't leave enough time for the bill to be pushed through. So in the mean time, you are going to waste taxpayer's money on an issue that might be mute. This issue has been looked at by three different entities and 2 out of the 3 have said that the 12-day rule should stay. Now there is a fourth entity looking at the rule, but because Coremark and the retailer are scared that the Supreme Court will uphold this rule, they are trying to change it. Just cause they don't like the decision doesn't mean it's wrong.

Another thing that I inquired about was as to who was pushing to get this rule changed. I have learned that the greatest push is coming from Coremark and their customers. Although, I do believe in competition, I do not believe that it is right for Montana representatives to pick up the fight of an out-of-state company when I don't believe that it we benefit us as consumers. Changing the rule will just allow the retailers to be more ineffective with their ordering. They will shove their bad milk on us as consumers. They will leave it on their shelves until it at the end of its useful and expect us to buy it. Thus if there is waste, it will just be transferred from their pocketbook to the consumers' pocketbooks. Don't become an out-of-state's tool to hurting Montana's consumers and businesses. Support keeping the 12-day rule.

Sincerely,
Gilbert J. Majerus
Roundup, MT
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