



California Raw Milk Association
The Voice of California's Raw Milk Consumers

CONSUMERS AND DAIRIES JOIN FORCES AGAINST CALIFORNIA MILK POOL
Former Chief of Milk Pool Agrees It May Be Time for Change

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Sacramento, CA--March 16, 2009--Raw and organic producers want out, they say system hurts them.

California's 40 year-old system of dairy market regulation came under fire at a March 11 hearing by the new Senate Food and Agriculture Committee, chaired by Senator Dean Florez. As conventional dairies continue to struggle while consumer demand for organic and raw milk grows, the committee challenged the ongoing need for the program and whether some organic, raw, and vertically-integrated operations should still be forced to be in the Pool.

A representative from the Alliance of Western Milk Producers argued that raw dairies should not be exempt from the Milk Pool because "we might see them popping up all over California".

Christine Chessen, director of CREMA, the California Raw Milk Association, subsequently noted "...that would be great. I would love to see that happen."

Mark McAfee, owner of Organic Pastures, the State's largest raw dairy, testified at the hearing that "the Milk Pool is structurally unfair" and a burden on my business because I cannot share in the benefits of the system by using milk from other producers."

Chessen also pointed out that while conventional dairies are struggling with a glut of milk, there is a shortage of affordable organic and raw milk for consumers. "Milk can no longer be viewed as 'compositionally similar' for purposes of the milk pool, "or consumers wouldn't be paying anywhere from \$1.64 - \$7.99 for a half gallon."

Glenn Gleason, retired Chief of the Milk Pool Branch of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, closed the hearing with his comments on the purpose of the Pool and conceded "it may be reasonable to exclude the raw dairy from the Milk Pool."

In response to continued abuse of raw dairymen by regulators, concerned citizens have rallied and organized to protect their access to raw milk. CREMA was founded in January, after overwhelming support by consumers and legislators for a pro-raw milk bill that was vetoed by the Governor in September. More information, including testimonials, research, and news, can be found at: www.californiarawmilk.org.