Testimony of **[Insert Your Department Name]** to the

Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Opponent for SB 308 • **[Insert Current Date Here]**

Chairman Kerschen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 308 which would permit the on-farm retail sale of unpasteurized milk so long as certain labeling and advertising requirements are met. As a local health department, we are greatly concerned with protecting the health of the public and the consumption of unpasteurized milk (also known as raw milk) poses serious risks than many in our community may not be aware of.

Pasteurization is the process whereby mild heat is used to eliminate pathogens and extend the shelf life of certain consumables. This is very important when it comes to milk and the diary products created from milk. According to the CDC[[1]](#footnote-1) there are several harmful germs present in raw milk (top examples include Salmonella, E.coli, Listeria, Brucella, Campylobacter, and Cryptosporidium). Consuming these germs can range from common, painful conditions (such as multiple days of vomiting, cramping, and diarrhea) to less common but life-threatening illness (such as Guillain-Barré syndrome).

We know a lot of people think that drinking raw milk is healthy. While there are forms of beneficial bacteria for humans to consume, those are safely accessible via pasteurized fermented foods such as yogurt. The germs in raw milk make the risk too great to consider it a proper source of beneficial bacteria.

Given the high risk of illness from consuming raw milk we believe it would be an important public health step to prohibit its sale for human consumption and do not feel a warning label is sufficient to protect the public’s health from the high risks associated with raw milk. It is for this reason that the **[Insert Your Department Name]** opposes SB 308.

Respectfully,

**[Signature Here]**

**[Name Here, Title]**

**[Department Name Here]**

1. CDC’s information on raw (unpasteurized) milk can be found online at: <https://www.cdc.gov/features/rawmilk/index.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)