

Well, what a difference a week can make!

Coming from a sense of inevitability just several days ago that the new directive from PDA on milk labeling would be implemented as announced, we now have a situation where everything is on hold while the administration studies the matter more thoroughly. This is a very positive change, and here's a link to the best printed story we could find on this latest development:

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07332/837268-85.stm>

Despite official statements that the delay was prompted by concerns from "rural lawmakers and farm lobbyists," there really is no doubt that it is has been the outpouring of public sentiment on this issue that really made the difference so far. The level of public concern was quite frankly beyond what anyone in Harrisburg had anticipated. We'd like to thank everyone who wrote to their legislators and the governor to express an opinion, and encourage those of you who haven't to do so now. It is our feeling that thoughtful letters, as opposed to pasted action alerts, make a big difference! We also have a confession to make. In our haste to get the action alert out last week, we gave out a "slightly incorrect" zip code for the governor's office. Fortunately, the incorrect code was also for Harrisburg, and in talking to the Post Office down there we were satisfied to learn that most, if not all such letters to the governor would likely be delivered to him. However, if anyone gets a letter returned, please let us know, as there's a no-cost way to forward these to the proper address in most cases. In general, we suggest that you refer to our website often for updates (including any corrections) and other information that might be helpful. We will be adding links to the bottom of the relevant page regularly as more items come available. For now, here is the correct contact information for the governor, and links to find the same for legislators:

Governor Edward G. Rendell

225 Main Capitol Building Harrisburg, PA 17120

You may use this email address and follow the instructions as prompted:

http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Governor/govmail.html

Fax your letter to (717) 772-8284 or call his office directly at (717) 787-2500

Pennsylvania Senate <http://www.pasen.gov/>

Pennsylvania House <http://www.house.state.pa.us/>

Again, I want to emphasize that YOU have made a big difference so far on the issue of milk labeling in Pennsylvania. More importantly, we have collectively served notice to our leaders in Harrisburg that the integrity of family farms and the food system DO matter and must be taken seriously in any similar decision making process in the future. I don't think they'll forget Thanksgiving of 2007 for some time to come!

Thanks to all for being there when we needed you!

Brian Snyder Executive Director, PASA