

Dear Senator,

We, the undersigned consumers, farmers, dairy farmers, farm and agricultural organizations, public health, animal protection and environmental groups, food processors and retailers are writing to urge the Kansas State Legislature to vote no on Senate Bill 595 and any companion House Bills, which would prohibit farmers from telling consumers that they aren't using artificial hormones on their dairy cows. We urge you not to prohibit labels such as "Our farmers pledge: no artificial growth hormones" "From cows not treated with the growth hormone rBST," and "Free of artificial growth hormones."

These labels are not misleading, and would be made illegal if SB 595 is passed. Recently similar labeling rules have been considered in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and New Jersey, and have been dismissed due to overwhelming consumer opposition.

We urge you not to prohibit claims about the non-use of hormones for the following reasons:

- Consumers have the right-to-know about the foods they eat. Many consumers prefer to buy milk produced by cows not treated with artificial hormones, as evidenced by the success in stores across the country of such milk. Consumers have a basic right to choose about the characteristics of the food they buy.

- Any prohibition would be a serious infringement on the free speech rights of farmers who want to inform the public about their agricultural practices. Some claim that these labels can be misleading because they cannot be verified by a test. However, many label claims, including "locally grown" and "Kansas Grown" cannot be verified by a laboratory test. In addition, all required country-of-origin labels cannot be verified with a test; rather, they are verified by simple written statement/declaration.

- In 1994, after the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved use of Monsanto's recombinant bovine growth hormone (rbGH), the FDA also said that the following label statement, in proper context, is acceptable: "from cows not treated with rbST". In 2007, Monsanto asked FDA and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to declare these labels to be misleading. In late August, the FTC wrote to Monsanto, The FTC staff agrees with FDA that food companies may inform consumers in advertising, as in labeling, that they do not use rBST. Thus, Kansas SB 595 contradicts long established federal policy on this matter.

- The use of rbGH remains controversial and was not approved in Canada, Japan, and the European Union because of negative effects of rbGH use on animal health. Codex Alimentarius, the United Nations main food safety body, twice decided that it could not endorse the safety of rbGH for human health.

We urge the Kansas State Legislature not to interfere with the rights of farmers, dairies and consumers.

Milk processors that have signed this letter simply want to be able to respond with truthful labeling to these concerns expressed by consumers and their corresponding desire to buy milk that is from cows not treated with rbGH.

Consumers have a right to know what's in their food and how it's produced. Farmers and dairies have the right to tell them.

Yours,

Donn Teske, President, Kansas Farmers Union  
Dan Nagengast, Executive Director, Kansas Rural Center  
Craig Volland, Kansas City Food Circle  
Jackie Keller, Chapter Administrator, Organic Crop Improvement Association, Kansas #2  
JaKo, Inc.  
American Agriculture Movement  
Keith Bolin, President, American Corn Growers Association  
Mark Retzloff, President and Chief Organic Officer, Aurora Organic Dairy  
Jay Feldman, Executive Director, Beyond Pesticides  
Christine Phillips, Director, BioVision2020  
Marc Zammit, Director, Culinary Support and Development, Bon Appetit Management Co.  
Scott Roy, President, Boulder Ice Cream  
Barbara A. Brenner, Executive Director, Breast Cancer Action  
Craig Winters, President, The Campaign  
Martin T Donohoe, MD, FACP, Chief Science Advisor, Campaign for Safe Food  
Charlie Cray, Director, Center for Corporate Policy  
Kevin Golden, Staff Attorney, Center for Food Safety  
John Stauber, Executive Director, Center for Media and Democracy, Center for Rural Affairs,  
Lyons, Nebraska  
Frank Herd, Executive Director, Citizens for Health  
Lynne Genter, Chair of the Board, Clintonville Farmers Market  
Community Farm Alliance, Kentucky  
Rhonda Clark, Executive Director, Community Food Initiatives  
Christopher Waldrop, Director Food Policy Institute, Consumer Federation of America  
Charles Margulis, Center for Environmental Health  
Mark A. Kastel, Cornucopia Institute  
Darwin Kelsey, Executive Director, Countryside Conservancy  
Beth Burrows, Edmonds Institute  
Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League Los Angeles  
John Peck, Executive Director, Family Farm Defenders  
Gene Baur, Farm Sanctuary  
Bill Wenzel, National Director, Farmer-to-farmer Campaign on Genetic Engineering  
Marty Mesh, Executive Director, Florida Organic Growers and Consumers  
Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director, Food & Water Watch  
Georgia Organics  
Mark Squire, President, Good Earth Natural Foods, Fairfax, CA  
Jacqueline Ostfeld, Food and Drug Safety Officer, Government  
Accountability Project  
Carrie Hahn, Hahn Natural Foods  
Kelly Shea, VP Government and Industry Relations/Organic Stewardship,  
Horizon Dairy  
Erica Liss, Humane Farming Association  
Miyun Park, Vice-President, Farm Animal Welfare, Humane Society of the  
United States  
Illinois Stewardship Alliance  
Indiana Farmers Union

Indiana Campaign for Family Farmers  
Rachel Carpenter, Board Chair, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Randolph County  
Indiana  
Jeanne Melchior, President, Protect Our Woods, Indiana  
Steve Bonney, Sustainable Earth, Indiana  
Sylvia Zimmerman, President of the Board, Innovative Farmers of Ohio  
David Wallinga, Director Food and Health Program, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
William H. Mellor, President and General Counsel, Institute for Justice  
Jeffrey Smith, Executive Director, Institute for Responsible Technology  
Frederick Kirschenmann, President, Kirschenmann Family Farms Medina, North Dakota  
Michael Jones, Executive Director, Local Matters  
Joel Gill, President, Mississippi Livestock Markets Association  
Bernadette Unger, President of the Board, MOON Cooperative Services  
Annette M. Higby, Policy Committee Coordinator, National Campaign for Sustainable  
Agriculture, National Family Farm Coalition  
Tom Buis, President, National Farmers Union  
Sarah Janssen, Science Fellow, Natural Resources Defense Council  
Ed Maltby, Executive Director, Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance  
Steve Gilman, Policy Coordinator, Northeast Organic Farming Association representing 7 states  
(NOFA-VT, NOFA-NH, NOFA-MASS, NOFA-CT, NOFA-NY, NOFA-NJ and NOFA-RI)  
Jack Kittredge, Public Policy Coordinator, Northeast Organic Farming Assn./Massachusetts  
Chapter, Inc.  
Gary Holthaus, Administrative Director, Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society  
Jim Goodman, Northwood Farms, Wonewoc, WI  
Sandy Buchanan, Executive Director, Ohio Citizen Action  
Carol Goland, Executive Director, Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association  
Ellen Mee, Director of Environmental Health Programs, Ohio Environmental Council  
Joe Logan, President, Ohio Farmers Union  
Liz Rog, Oneota Community Co-op Decorah, Iowa  
Tom Gleason, President, Oregon Ice Cream Company  
Rick North, Project Director, Campaign for Safe Food, Oregon Physicians for Social  
Responsibility  
Ronnie Cummins, Executive Director, Organic Consumers Association  
Mark Lipson, Policy Program Director, Organic Farming Research  
Foundation  
Caren Wilcox, Executive Director and CEO, Organic Trade Association  
Elizabeth Henderson, Peacework Farm  
Brian Snyder, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture (PASA)  
Francis Thicke, Radiance Dairy Fairfield, Iowa  
Jeff Milchen, Founder, Reclaim Democracy  
Timothy LaSalle, CEO, Rodale Institute  
Rural Advancement Foundation International- USA  
Ted Schettler, Science Director, Science and Environmental Health Network  
Albert Straus, President, Straus Family Creamery Marshall, CA  
Laurel Hopwood, Genetic Engineering Committee Chair, Sierra Club  
Gary Hirshberg, CE-Yo, Stonyfield Farm, Inc.  
Ferd Hoefner, Policy Director, Sustainable Agriculture Coalition  
Margaret Mellon, Director Food and Environment Program, Union of Concerned Scientists  
Jill Davies, Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group Victor, MT  
Andrew Altman, Executive Director, White Dog Community Enterprises Philadelphia, PA  
Patrick Lewis, Regional Buyer, Whole Foods Market Emeryville, CA

Chuck Deichmann, Willow Creek Farm Belmont, New York  
George Wright, Wright Way Dairy Hermon, New York