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17 September 2008

The Standards Management Officer
Food Standards Australia & New Zealand
PO Box 7186
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

Dear Sir,

Submission – Project No. P1007
Primary Production & Processing Requirements for Raw Milk Products

Reference is made to the site – www.realmilk.com/expert-testimony.0508.pdf, being the official reporter's transcript of the proceedings of 25 April 2008 held in the Superior Court of the State of California before Honorable Harry J Tobias, Judge, the plaintiff being Organic Pastures Dairy Company LLC and Claravale Farm, Inc., and the defendant being the State of California and A G Kawamura, Secretary of California Department of Food and Agriculture.

These proceedings, coupled with the resulting judgement of that court, puts beyond doubt or reason the clear and tangible health benefits flowing from the consumption of properly produced raw milk. The judgement, by deduction, casts doubt on the supposedly inherent health benefits claimed for the consumption of pasteurised milk.

Additionally, the expert testimony provided for the plaintiffs, as set down in the transcript, makes very clear the absolute need for regulatory authorities to be precise and accurate in setting down the proper testing and assessment standards.

It is therefore unnecessary to pursue a defence of the health benefits of raw milk.

The only matters in question are the rights of the public to purchase the foods of choice and the need for the regulatory authorities to provide concise and unbiased procedures by which such food will be provided to the public.

All that is required is to establish a raw milk production certification system which will ensure that:

- (i) the herds from which raw milk is produced are treated in accordance with best husbandry practice for raw milk production, and
- (ii) the facilities and equipment, production procedures, packaging procedures and operational and employee practices, clearly and patently meet all requirements for the safety and protection of all consumers.

As the production of raw milk (and raw milk products) is of extremely small and limited scale, the regulations should be prepared in plain language with testing costs kept to an efficient minimum.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

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Please place my details on your interested parties register:

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Yours faithfully,
Peter Teerman