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**RESOLUTION # 44-2011**

Resolution offered by the Oneida County Board of Health.

**Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:**

**WHEREAS**, current law generally prohibits in the State of Wisconsin the sale of unpasteurized milk and other milk products that are not Grade-A milk or milk products; and

**WHEREAS**, dairy farmers are currently required to have a milk producer license from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and a Grade-A permit from DATCP to sell Grade-A milk; and

**WHEREAS**, under current law, DATCP promulgates rules governing the operation of dairy farms and the testing and quality of milk; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed bill, LRB 0306/2 (Senate) and LRB 1531/1 (Assembly), allows a dairy farmer with a license and a Grade-A permit to register with DATCP for the purpose of selling unpasteurized milk and milk products; and

**WHEREAS**, the bill also allows a dairy farmer who does not have a license or Grade-A permit to register with DATCP if the farmer milks fewer than 20 cows; and

**WHEREAS**, the bill allows a dairy farmer who registers with DATCP may sell unpasteurized milk and milk products directly to a consumer on the farm if the dairy farmer or the consumer provides a sanitary container, the container is filled in a sanitary manner, and the dairy farmer posts a sign stating "Raw milk products sold here. Raw milk products are not pasteurized."; and

**WHEREAS**, under the bill, DATCP rules governing the operation of dairy farms and the testing and quality of milk do not apply to a registered dairy farmer without a license or a Grade-A permit if the farmer milks fewer than 20 cows; and

**WHEREAS**, raw milk can cause people to become ill; and

**WHEREAS**, medical, public health, and microbiology professionals recognize the substantial risk for serious diseases to occur with the consumption of unpasteurized milk; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no published scientific evidence of any benefit from raw milk, nor any danger or loss of nutritional value as a result of pasteurization; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed bill as written offers little protection for consumers of raw milk as compared to past proposed legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, in January 2010, former Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Secretary Rod Nilsestuen appointed raw milk stakeholders representing farmers, dairy industry, veterinarians, food scientists, public health, and raw milk consumers to a Raw Milk Working Group; and

**WHEREAS**, the Raw Milk Working Group had the following charge: "To explore and evaluate legal and regulatory alternatives under Wisconsin law that: may allow dairy farmers to sell unpasteurized fluid raw milk to customers on their farms, beyond incidental sales allowed under current law, and if so, under what conditions this might be done that would also protect public health;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Raw Milk Working Group has developed recommendations for consumer protections to include bacterial testing; herd health testing; specific pathogens to be tested and testing frequency; time interval between filling raw milk containers, selling and consumption of the milk; and labeling of containers and enforcement; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Oneida County Board of Supervisors opposes the currently proposed legislation to permit the sale of unpasteurized milk in Wisconsin and urges reconsideration and revision of the bills so as to provide adequate safeguards outlined by the Raw Milk Working Group.

52 Vote Required: Majority = \_\_\_\_\_ 2/3 Majority = \_\_\_\_\_ 3/4 Majority = \_\_\_\_\_  
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54 The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ as reviewed  
55 by the Corporation Counsel, \_\_\_\_\_, Date:  
56 \_\_\_\_\_  
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58 Approved by the \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.  
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60 Offered and passage moved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
61 Supervisor  
62 \_\_\_\_\_  
63 Supervisor  
64 \_\_\_\_\_  
65 Supervisor  
66 \_\_\_\_\_  
67 Supervisor  
68 \_\_\_\_\_  
69 Supervisor

70 \_\_\_\_\_ Ayes

71 \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

72 \_\_\_\_\_ Absent

73 \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain

74 \_\_\_\_\_ Adopted

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79 by the County Board of Supervisors this \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

80 \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated

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85 Mary Bartelt, County Clerk Ted Cushing, County Board Chair