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California State Senate

SENATOR DEAN FLOREZ

REPRESENTING KERN, KINGS, FRESNO, AND TULARE COUNTIES



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April 10, 2008

Mr. A. G. Kawamura
Secretary, California Department of Food & Agriculture
1220 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Secretary Kawamura:

I am disappointed that the California Department of Food & Agriculture continues to refuse to appear before a Senate joint committee hearing on "Farm Fresh Milk: Assuring Safety & Consumer Choice."

The fact that CDFA failed to even respond to the April 4, 2008 letter is extremely disrespectful to both Committees, the Senate as an institution, and is not well taken.

The lack of response further demonstrates that CDFA is attempting to hide behind a cloak of secrecy when it comes to the issue of raw milk, further begging the question, 'what does CDFA have to hide?'

As a public agency, under the jurisdiction of the respective Committees, there is no excuse for CDFA's refusal to participate. Pending litigation should not impact the testimony of any CDFA official, provided that they provide the same testimony before the Committees as they intend to provide in a court of law. In both instances, CDFA merely has to tell the truth.

I urge CDFA to appear before the Committees on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 and tell the truth about how the agency is addressing the issue of raw milk.

Sincerely,


DEAN FLOREZ, Chairman
Senate Select Committee on Food-Borne Illness

Cc: General Public

