



## ***Organic Pastures Dairy Company LLC***

### **SB 201 Veto Statement Response**

October 1, 2008

OPDC believes that the SB 201 veto statement below is a travesty of the legislative process. It is filled with misstatements, political opinions, and gross errors (see highlights). Judging by the way this statement is worded, it could only have been written by a CDFA staffer wanting to protect the CDFA's legal defense, and avoid the embarrassment of defeat.

Remember that CDFA's original bill, AB 1735, was highly flawed and secretly passed.

AB 1735:

- was brought on a consent calendar which enables the legislature to group routine items and resolutions under one umbrella.
- established raw milk standards based on flawed science and shoddy research.
- went through the legislature without notification or involvement of California's two raw milk dairies.
- had neither consumer notification nor public hearings.

The veto statement accuses our supporters – mainly health-conscious mothers – of waging a “lobbying technique and Public Relations campaign.” It denies raw milk consumers a voice and makes a mockery of your hard work and positive activism over the past year.

The statement says that OPDC and Claravale have operated successfully in 2008 with AB 1735 in place. This is untrue. We have been degraded more than once and face degradations at this time, even though we are pathogen-free with very low SPC counts.

Contrary to the “clear” conclusion, AB 1735 has not kept harmful products off the shelves. In fact, *Campylobacter* was found for the first time this year in CA raw cream with “less than 10 coliforms” – under the new AB 1735 standard. SB 201 standards would have provided better protection. Low coliforms do not mean low pathogens. *Pathogen free* means no pathogens, and SB 201 would have required this standard.

Meanwhile, our legal action against CDFA and AB 1735 continues.

This battle is far from over and these horrendous actions do nothing but motivate us further.

We at OPDC promise to do all we can to keep the raw milk flowing to you even under these incredibly adverse conditions. You the consumer mean everything to us. Drink extra raw milk. Tell a friend about raw milk. This will make you and the dairy both strong. If we are strong, we can and will survive.

Mark McAfee  
Founder OPDC

PS: Why does CDFA want to work outside of hearings with an anti raw milk agenda? Could it be that government stewardship of living, whole food is **not** on their agenda?

See Governors Veto Statement below:

BILL NUMBER: SB 201  
VETOED            DATE: 09/30/2008

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 201 without my signature.

This bill **weakens food safety standards in California**, something I cannot support.

Last year I signed **AB 1735, which passed the Legislature unanimously** and put into law food safety standards for raw milk. Those standards are now in question by the proponents of this bill. Looking past the **lobbying techniques, public relations campaign, and legal maneuvering in the courts**, one conclusion is inescapably clear: **the standard in place has kept harmful products off the shelves and California's raw milk dairies have been operating successfully under it for the entirety of 2008.**

**Based on fears with no basis in fact**, the proponents of SB 201 seek to replace California's **unambiguous food safety standards** for raw milk. Instead they have created a **convoluted and undefined regulatory process with no enforcement authority** or clear standards to protect public health.

For these reasons, I cannot support this measure.

Sincerely,  
Arnold Schwarzenegger