



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 720
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July 13, 2009

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 251 entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal section 416.440, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the sale of milk.

I disapprove of House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 251. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

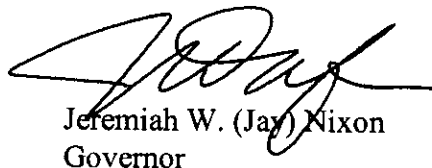
House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 251 as it relates to the Unfair Milk Sales Practices Act would allow milk processors, distributors or cooperative associations to create monopolies or unfairly manipulate trade. This represents a substantial change to longstanding regulation of milk and milk products that could have a detrimental impact on consumers.

House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 251 could also adversely affect the economic well being of Missouri dairy farmers. The bill would create incentives for the grocery industry to purchase milk from dairy producers outside the State of Missouri, which would have a negative impact on Missouri dairy producers. At a time when the state should be enacting policies that support Missouri farmers and Missouri agriculture, this legislation would be a step in the wrong direction.

In addition, House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 251 could adversely affect public health and welfare to the extent that the bill creates incentives for expanded warehousing of milk and milk products. Milk and milk products have a limited shelf life, and lengthening the amount of time it takes these products to reach consumers could increase health risks to consumers.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 251 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon", written in a cursive style.

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor