



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

JEFFERSON CITY
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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 Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 153 entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal sections 265.525, 267.565, 267.600, 416.410, and 416.440, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof five new sections relating to the marketing of commodities.

I disapprove of Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 153. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 153 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.

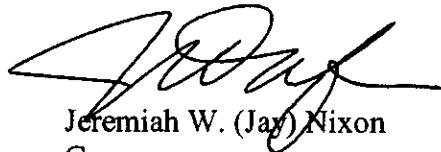
Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 153 could also adversely affect the economic well being of Missouri dairy farmers, who oppose this legislation. The bill would create incentives for the grocery industry to purchase milk from dairy producers outside the State of Missouri, which would have a 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, Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 153 could adversely affect the 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.

Although I support the changes to the Rice Advisory Council and the expansion of the scope of authority of the State Veterinarian set forth in Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 153, I must reject this bill because of the amendments to the Unfair Milk Sales Practices Act.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 153 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon".

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor