

PEF Opposes the Plan to Replace Annual Inspections of Food Stores with Risk-Based Inspections



KEEP OUR FOOD SAFE PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH

Reject the Governor's proposal to establish a program of risk-based inspections of retail food stores, replacing the current annual inspection program.

The annual inspection of retail food stores should not be eliminated. Reliance on a risk-based assessment will, undoubtedly, increase the likelihood that our foods will be improperly cared for. Moreover, the underlying rationale to move to risk-based inspections is due to the desire **to save money, not enhance public safety:**

These annual inspections ensure:

- ✓ our foods are properly handled and stored to minimize the risk of food-borne disease
- ✓ our retail food stores have sanitary conditions

Reliance on a risk-based assessment is based on:

- ✓ Risk factors that have not yet been developed
- ✓ The assumption that government has the information necessary to make scientifically sound decisions about the management of specific risks

Reliance on risk-based assessment could lead to:

- ✓ Unsanitary retail food stores
- ✓ An increase in food-borne diseases

If the Governor's proposal is adopted it will result in the elimination of 21 positions in the Consumer Food Service program within the Department of Agriculture and Markets. This means fewer inspectors for retail food stores. \$1.2 million is a small price to pay to ensure the safety of our food.

**THE LEGISLATURE REJECTED SIMILAR PROPOSALS
IN THE PAST AND SHOULD DO SO AGAIN!**

**KEEP OUR CURRENT SYSTEM OF EFFECTIVE
ANNUAL INSPECTIONS**

**KEEP OUR FOOD SAFE
PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH**



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