



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2008 JUL -9 P 2:27

July 8, 2008

Tom Mayfield
Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
Stanislaus County
1010 – 10th St., Ste 6500
Modesto, Ca 95354

Dear Tom:

I am writing you for your board's consideration in opposing the ballot initiative, Proposition #2, which will be appearing on the November 4, 2008 ballot. The title of this statute is "Treatment of Farm Animals Statute."

The proposal, currently called the "Treatment of Farm Animals Statute," addresses the manner in which three specific farm animal groups (calves raised for veal, pregnant pigs, and egg laying hens) are housed. Specifically the measure imposes a minimum size requirement on enclosures in which such animals are housed. However, in California, there is virtually no veal or pork industry that would actually be affected by the initiatives measures terms.

The egg industry in California adopted the United Egg Producers (UEP) Certified Program in 2002. This effort started in 1999 with the formation of an independent scientific advisory committee charged with reviewing all scientific literature on animal well-being for egg laying hens. This program for cage production provides assurance that hens receive adequate space, nutritious food, clean water, proper lighting, and fresh air daily as well as improves the flock livability with egg production rates.

The Humane Society of the Untied States (HSUS) does not support or operate animal shelters, they are not associated with local humane societies, but they are vegans and ultimately want to eliminate animal agriculture.

If passed California farmers would be obligated to build 8 to 16 times more hen houses as currently are in use to comply with the new laws requirements and maintain their current egg production. The cost to comply would be at least 76 per cent higher than that for current modern cage housing production. What would result is the out of state competition from farmers not facing such onerous regulations would drive California egg farmers out of business.

According to a new economic study released by the United Egg Producers this measure would cause a loss of almost 3,400 jobs and a loss of \$615 million to the states economy.



js west
AND COMPANIES

CORRESPONDENCE NO. 6
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I am President of J. S. West and we will be celebrating our 100th birthday as a family owned company next year. I urge you and your board to make a public statement opposing Proposition #2.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

J. S. WEST & COMPANIES

D. Gary West
President