



Cheryl Davila
Councilmember
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 15, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila and Councilmember Kate Harrison

Subject: Support calling upon food companies within Berkeley to implement the requirements of Proposition 12 as soon as possible by only selling eggs and meat from cage-free facilities.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution calling upon supermarkets, restaurant companies, and other food corporations with locations in Berkeley, CA to implement the requirements of Proposition 12 as soon as possible by only selling eggs and meat from cage-free facilities.

BACKGROUND

California's Proposition 12, the Prevention of Cruelty to Farm Animals Act, passed into law on the 2018 ballot; voters approved Proposition 12 by an overwhelming 25-point margin.

71.6% of voters in Alameda county voted in favor of Proposition 12.

Proposition 12 ensures that egg-laying hens, mother pigs, and calves used for veal aren't confined in tiny cages, and that the products sold from these caged animals aren't sold in the California marketplace.

The Proposition 12 mandate came into effect for calves used for veal on December 31, 2019, and the egg-laying hens and mother pigs standards have a compliance date of December 31, 2021.

In passing Proposition 12, California voters sent a strong message that it is cruel and inhumane to lock animals in cramped cages for their whole lives.

By approving Proposition 12, Californians and residents of Berkeley, CA made clear that they do not want eggs, pork and veal sold in the city to be sourced from animals confined in cages.

Proposition 12 builds on the momentum of McDonald's, Walmart, Costco, and 200 other major food companies, as well as numerous small businesses, that have pledged to stop sourcing eggs and other animal products from animals forced to live in extreme confinement.

Multiple food corporations headquartered in California, such as Safeway, Chipotle, Taco Bell, Jack in the Box, IHOP, and Bon Appétit Management Company have adopted cage-free policies.

There is a national trend to help curb factory farm abuses and move toward cage-free housing systems for egg-laying hens, mother pigs and calves used for veal.

In addition to California, eleven states have passed laws to phase out intensive confinement of farm animals.

The conditions required by Proposition 12 confer significant local benefits for food safety, public health and protection of the environment as well as the humane treatment of animals.

Berkeley, CA is known for its social responsibility and humane values, including its adoption of the Fish Prize / Award Ban, Declawing Ban, and Meatless Mondays.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

To be determined.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs, or “factory farms”) pack enormous numbers of animals into small spaces by confining egg-laying hens, mother pigs, and veal calves in cages so restrictive they are rendered virtually immobile. Factory farms are a leading cause of air and water pollution. The prestigious Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production released the results of a 2.5-year investigation into the problems associated with factory farming. The Commission found that the factory farming system “often poses unacceptable risks to public health, the environment and the welfare of the animals themselves.”

Proposition 12 helps reduce some of the worst environmental impacts of CAFOs. Encouraging companies to come into compliance with Proposition 12 as soon as possible sends a strong message about the importance of protecting rivers, air and land from factory farms.

CONTACT PERSONS

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA SUPPORT CALLING UPON FOOD COMPANIES WITHIN BERKELEY TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF PROPOSITION 12 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY ONLY SELLING EGGS AND MEAT FROM CAGE-FREE FACILITIES

WHEREAS, California's Proposition 12, the Prevention of Cruelty to Farm Animals Act, passed into law on the 2018 ballot; voters approved Proposition 12 by an overwhelming 25-point margin; and

WHEREAS, 71.6% of voters in Alameda county voted in favor of Proposition 12; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 12 ensures that egg-laying hens, mother pigs, and calves used for veal aren't confined in tiny cages, and that the products sold from these caged animals aren't sold in the California marketplace; and

WHEREAS, The Proposition 12 mandate came into effect for calves used for veal on December 31, 2019, and the egg-laying hens and mother pigs standards have a compliance date of December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, In passing Proposition 12, California voters sent a strong message that it is cruel and inhumane to lock animals in cramped cages for their whole lives; and

WHEREAS, By approving Proposition 12, Californians and residents of Berkeley, CA made clear that they do not want eggs, pork and veal sold in the city to be sourced from animals confined in cages; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 12 builds on the momentum of McDonald's, Walmart, Costco, and 200 other major food companies, as well as numerous small businesses, that have pledged to stop sourcing eggs and other animal products from animals forced to live in extreme confinement; and

WHEREAS, Multiple food corporations headquartered in California, such as Safeway, Chipotle, Taco Bell, Jack in the Box, IHOP, and Bon Appétit Management Company have adopted cage-free policies; and

WHEREAS, There is a national trend to help curb factory farm abuses and move toward cage-free housing systems for egg-laying hens, mother pigs and calves used for veal; and

WHEREAS, In addition to California, eleven states have passed laws to phase out intensive confinement of farm animals; and

WHEREAS, The conditions required by Proposition 12 confer significant local benefits for food safety, public health and protection of the environment as well as the humane treatment of animals; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley, CA is known for its social responsibility and humane values, including its adoption of the Fish Prize / Award Ban, Declawing Ban, and Meatless Mondays.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Berkeley hereby call upon supermarkets, restaurant companies, and other food corporations with locations in Berkeley, CA to implement the requirements of Proposition 12 as soon as possible by only selling eggs and meat from cage-free facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council takes the monitoring and enforcement of animal cruelty laws seriously, and is committed to ensuring compliance of this important law.