

Urban Village by the Bay

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CA 94706
www.AlbanyCA.org

22 February 2022

The Honorable Senator Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Farm Systems Reform Act (S. 2332) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Feinstein,

The City of Albany is pleased to support the Farm System Reform Act (S. 2332 and H.R. 4421) and asks you to co-sponsor. Our Nation's food system urgently needs fundamental overhaul; the critical reforms in this legislation will help to accomplish that.

This legislation provides the necessary scale and timing of action. Small, independent farmers are in crisis as increasing concentration makes it impossible for them to get a fair price. The U.S. food system is dominated by factory farms that confine tens of thousands of animals in cramped, unsanitary conditions. These conditions:

- Place the safety of our food at risk,
- Pollute our air and water,
- Harm the welfare of animals and workers,
- Extract wealth from rural communities,
- Increase the risk of antibiotic resistant bacteria, and
- Increase corporate control of our food.

Multiple policy failures including weak environmental rules (and lax enforcement), farm policy that prioritizes overproduction of corn and soy to feed factory farmed animals, and failed antitrust policy that has allowed a handful of meat companies to dominate the marketplace and drive independent livestock producers out of business have led to this point. This outcome is not an accident. Rather it results from intentional consolidation designed to benefit the biggest players in the agricultural industry at the expense of the rest of us.

The Farm System Reform Act will contribute to fixing the resulting deficiencies and revitalizing independent family farm agriculture and rural communities by:

- Placing a moratorium on new and expanding large factory farms;
- Phasing out existing large factory farms by 2040,
- Holding corporate integrators responsible for harm caused by factory farms,
- Providing a \$100 billion voluntary buyout program for farmers who want to escape contracts with monopolistic suppliers and buyers that mandate use of damaging practices,
- Strengthening the Packers & Stockyards Act to protect family farmers and ranchers,
- Restoring mandatory Country of Origin Labeling for meat, and
- Prohibiting USDA from labeling foreign imported meat products as “Product of USA”.

The Act will benefit independent farms, rural communities, food safety, our air and water, and the welfare of animals. It’s time to ban new and expanding factory farms and build a better future.

Sincerely,



Preston Jordan, Mayor
City of Albany

Cc: Senator Cory Booker
Representative Ro Khanna

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The Honorable Representative Lee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Farm Systems Reform Act (H.R. 4421) – SUPPORT

Dear Representative Lee,

The City of Albany is pleased to support the Farm System Reform Act (H.R. 4421) and asks you to co-sponsor. Our Nation's food system urgently needs fundamental overhaul; the critical reforms in this legislation will help to accomplish that.

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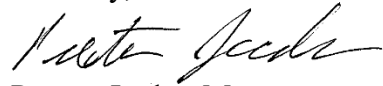
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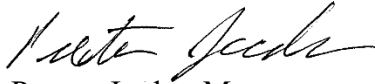
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