

Urban Village by the Bay

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



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

26 February 2022

The Honorable Assemblymember Buffy Wicks
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2764 – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Wicks,

The City of Albany is pleased to support the AB 2764 (Animals: commercial animal feeding operations and slaughterhouses: prohibition on new operations). Our State's food system urgently needs fundamental overhaul. This bill provides a first step.

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.

AB 2764 takes the first step toward rectifying this situation by placing a moratorium on new and expanding large factory farms. As such the bill will benefit independent farms, rural communities, food safety, our air and water, and the welfare of animals.

Sincerely,

Preston Jordan, Mayor
City of Albany

Cc: Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian