



May 22, 2006

Colleen McShane  
Illinois Restaurant Association  
200 N. LaSalle St., Ste. 880  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Ms. McShane:

The Animal Agriculture Alliance (Alliance) is a national coalition of individual producers, producer organizations, suppliers, packer-processors, private industry and retailers. We recently learned that Chicago's City Council passed an ordinance that makes it the first city in the nation to ban the sale of a legitimate (and delicious) food—foie gras, the fattened liver of a duck or goose. It is our organization's stance that any City Council should chose to focus on issues like improving schools, enhancing public safety, managing development and other essential services prior to interfering with consumer choice and potentially treading on the commerce clause of the United States Constitution.

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley has expressed his dismay with the City Council's vote saying, "We have children getting killed by gang leaders and dope dealers. We have real issues here in this city. And we're dealing with foie gras." We at the Animal Agriculture Alliance stand in solid agreement with Mayor Daley.

Those who are unfamiliar with ducks do not know that they are naturally designed to eat large amounts of food at a time. Because they do not have teeth, their bodies are designed to swallow whole fish. The method used to produce foie gras mimics the natural process of gorging that occurs before ducks migrate. The gorging, and additional fat that accumulates, provides the ducks with additional energy for their migration.

The City Council passed the measure after Alderman Joe Moore of the 49<sup>th</sup> Ward distributed a video that misleadingly focuses on production rarities and may include staged footage. Mark Caro, a reporter for *The Chicago Tribune* indicated his opinion that Ald. Moore and his fellow council members have signed themselves up for "a Netflix-like plan of animal cruelty videos." Our belief is that Caro is correct. The groups that provided this video to Caro are vegan extremists. True vegans believe that animals are not ours to use, eat or wear. Hence, they oppose eating beef or hot dogs, wearing fur, having leather coats or furniture and even oppose eating honey. And the Chicago City Council's vote has marked it as an easy target to push through the next anti-choice initiative.

We believe that the citizens of Chicago deserve better than to have their City Council limit their right to choose what they eat. We urge Illinois Restaurant Association to actively and publicly work to overturn this ordinance. We are happy to offer any assistance necessary to aid your efforts. Please don't hesitate to call me at (703) 562-5160.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay M. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.