



NAIA Trust for the Protection of Animals, Animal Owners and Animal Enterprises

*Educating the Public about the Critical Difference between Animal Welfare and Animal Rights:
Supporting Animal Welfare Using Common Sense, Science and Reason.*

June 16, 2004

Assembly Member Lou Correa, Chair
Assembly Business and Professions Committee
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Vote NO on SB 1520

Dear Assemblyman Correa:

The National Animal Interest Alliance Trust is a coalition of animal owners and public, private and commercial organizations dedicated to animal welfare, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of owners to responsibly keep and enjoy pets and livestock. NAIA Trust backs reasonable laws designed to advance the well-being of animals and strongly opposes laws that ignore science and reinforce the hate tactics used by radical groups against individuals whose practices they oppose. We have members throughout the state of California.

We are writing to urge you to vote NO on SB 1520, a bill that would ban the production and sale of foie gras in California under the false claim that the practice is cruel. This bill legitimizes the shameful attack against immigrant businessman Guillermo Gonzalez, the owner of Sonoma Foie Gras and part owner of Sonoma Saveurs, a bistro that includes gourmet duck meals on the menu.

Gonzalez stood his ground when terrorists raided his farm, stole his ducks, painted "Go Home" on his restaurant walls, sabotaged the restaurant to prevent its opening, and terrorized his partners and their families. When this bullying failed, the extremists opened a legislative front against Gonzalez by proposing and promoting this bill.

Proponents of this bill are animal rights militants who oppose all use of animals, no matter how humane or responsible, and operate with the backing of a terrorist wing that the FBI has identified as the number one domestic terrorist threat operating in the US today. Together the above ground extremists and their criminal cohorts are coordinating a one-two punch aimed at eradicating businesses they believe to be vulnerable to attack.

The NAIA Trust opposes all coercive tactics and urges a no vote on SB 1520.

As you consider your vote, please keep in mind that SB1520 is based on the false charge that the managed feeding of ducks is cruel, a belief that flies in the face of scientific inquiry and documentation – a belief promoted by radical vegans who represent no more than a per cent or two of the population and who oppose all human use of animals.

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Continued

Managed feeding takes only a few seconds twice a day and mimics the natural gorging that helps ducks store fat in their livers for use during long migrations. Scientific studies have shown that the process is not painful; the ducks at Sonoma Foie Gras have been inspected by California authorities and poultry science experts and found to be in good condition.

SB 1520 is nothing more than an attempt to codify the fanatics' hatred of a safe, science-based agricultural practice and to garner official condemnation of those who use this practice as cruel and abusive. If enacted, SB 1520 would bolster the use of criminal tactics to achieve social goals – the very definition of terrorism – and would encourage activist groups to escalate the use of violence, hate crimes, theft, threats, intimidation, and vandalism in their war against livestock agriculture and other animal interests. Rather than validating these tactics by passing such laws, NAIA Trust urges lawmakers to repudiate them in the strongest terms possible.

Agriculture is California's number one business. The state has an honored tradition of using science and animal welfare in establishing its guidelines for livestock care and management. Guillermo Gonzalez came to California to establish his business under these guidelines. He followed the law and worked hard to achieve the American dream for his family. Today Mr. Gonzalez faces ruin as radical lawbreakers attempt to make their belief the law of California. Passing SB 1520 would strengthen and legitimize their campaign of hate, stalking, persecution, and crime.

NAIA Trust urges you to **say no to extremist tactics and vote no SB 1520**. Tell California's farmers and radicals alike that science and the marketplace, not radical beliefs, will continue to guide California agriculture's animal management and care decisions.

Sincerely,

Patti L. Strand, trustee
NAIA Trust

For more information on animal rights extremism, please visit www.naiaonline.org

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