



Animal Rights Vote in California

October 24, 2008

If you are in California you are probably aware of this. If you aren't please don't ignore it. As you may know, issues which start in California can sometimes be "contagious."

On Nov. 4, in addition to the Presidential election, California residents will vote on a measure directed toward the egg production industry and the broader animal rights agenda.

Known as Proposition 2, the measure would require farmers to provide animals room to turn around, lie down, stand up and fully extend their limbs in their pens.

For farmers, this measure could translate into higher production costs that ultimately increase food costs for consumers.

Although Proposition 2 does not directly affect the transportation industry, it could set a precedent with future transportation implications. If restrictions are placed on production practices, for example, animal rights groups ultimately may wish to extend these requirements to livestock trailers.

Specifically, Proposition 2 requires farmers to provide hens, pregnant pigs and veal calves with enough room to stand, turn around, and lie down for the majority of every day, without touching another animal or the sides of any enclosure.

Hens must be given enough room to fully stretch their wings (27" average wingspan) and turn around, also for the majority of any day, without touching another animal or the side of any enclosure.

Two economic studies, one of which was done independently by the University of California-Davis, report that this would eliminate 95 percent of California's egg industry within 5 years. (California is the 5th largest egg producing state in the nation.)

The reports go on to state that this measure would result in: more than 3,400 lost jobs in California, more than \$650 million in reduced economic activity in the state, and a loss of more than \$25 million in local and state tax revenue.

Furthermore, the cost of California-grown eggs is expected to more than double. This translates into less egg consumption and fewer egg deliveries to stores. Potentially, an increased number of eggs would be imported from Mexico.

Attached is a Fact Sheet on Proposition 2 from the groups working to defeat it. These groups include more than 25 newspapers and over 200 business and professional organizations such as the California Republican Party, California Chamber of Commerce, California Grocers Association, National Latino Congreso, 5 U.S. Congressmen, 15 California state senators, and 25 California Assembly members.

For additional info you may want to visit the website www.noonprop2.com.

