



# FARM BUREAU SAN DIEGO COUNTY

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July 6, 2009

The Honorable Elaine Alquist, Chair  
Senate Health Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5080  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1437 (Huffman) – Oppose, Unless Amended**

Dear Senator Alquist:

The San Diego County Farm Bureau respectfully asks that you oppose AB 1437 unless it is amended to include statutory housing standards that set the rules for housing space for egg-laying hens.

Last November, when they approved Proposition 2, Californians embraced a broad principle to give egg-laying hens more space, a decision California egg farmers respect. California egg farmers want to continue providing a locally-grown, safe, fresh, affordable and nutritious source of food for the state's residents. To do that, they need enforceable legislation that provides clear-cut standards.

AB 1437 is needed legislation to ensure the expectations of California's consumers for animal care and food safety are met, regardless where the farm products are produced. But first, farmers need to know exactly how much space to provide an egg-laying hen and what housing systems will comply with the initiative.

Please work with the author and the bill's supporters to make AB 1437 an inclusive bill that lays the path on how California and out-of-state producers can comply with Proposition 2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Larson'.

Eric Larson  
Executive Director