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July 9, 2008

The Honorable Thomas W. Mayfield
Chairman, Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors
1010 10th Street, Suite 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Chairman Mayfield:

The Stanislaus County Farm Bureau urges the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors to oppose California State Initiative Proposition 2 (Farm Animal Initiative of 2008) which would dramatically impact our local egg producers. This unnecessary initiative would place new and extreme mandates on how egg-laying hens are housed. Existing laws already protect animal welfare.

Banning current housing practices threatens food safety. Proposition 2 would jeopardize public health, effectively eliminate local, California – grown eggs, lead to consumer reliance on eggs shipped from other states and Mexico and drive up consumer prices.

95 percent of California egg farms already adhere to the toughest and stringent food safety standards in the U.S. under the California Egg Quality Assurance plan (CEQAP). CEQAP requires that California egg farms use the most modern, safe and practical egg farming techniques.

The egg producers are vital to our local Ag economy. We urge you to take action on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Wayne Zipser
SCFB Executive Manager

cc: Honorable, Jim DeMartini
Jeff Grover
Dick Monteith
William O'Brien