

20 June 2005

Assemblymember John J. McEneny
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building 648
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Mr. McEneny:

I would like to thank you for your introduction of AB 6212, a statewide ban on foie gras production. I am very pleased that the New York State Assembly Agricultural Committee approved your bill, and I hope that it will succeed on the Assembly floor.

As you obviously know, foie gras (“fatty liver”) is produced by force-feeding unnatural amounts of food to ducks and geese so that their livers swell up to such an extent that they cease to function. Advanced animals like geese and ducks may not have self-awareness or language as do humans, but overwhelming scientific evidence shows that they do feel *pain* in nearly the same way that people do. As the philosopher Jeremy Bentham sagaciously observed in 1789, “The question [determining whether animals deserve moral consideration] is not ‘Can they *reason*?’ nor ‘Can they *talk*?’ but ‘Can they *suffer*?’”

Thank you once again for introducing a ban on foie gras production. I hope that you will continue to work actively for the improvement of animal welfare.

Sincerely,

Brian Tomasik