



The Center for a Livable Future

January 12, 2009

Honorable Dean Florez
California State Senate
456 Atlantic Avenue
Shafter, California 93263

Dear Senator Florez:

The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (CLF) applauds the decision to rename California's Senate Agriculture Committee as the Senate Food and Agriculture Committee. We believe that this name change is more than symbolic, as it reflects an intention to refine the focus of the committee's work and indicates a much needed adjustment in addressing important public health issues surrounding how and what food is produced in California. We also believe that taking this step in California will resonate in other parts of the country and will potentially stimulate similar change in other states.

As an interdisciplinary academic center that focuses on the links among food production, environment and human health, CLF is well aware of the need to share knowledge from various disciplines in order to solve complex problems. Acknowledging that agriculture does not happen in isolation – and that our agricultural methods and the types of food we produce have implications for the environment and public health – enhances our ability to make sound public policy regarding food production.

Thank you for considering our organization's comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Lawrence".

Robert S. Lawrence, MD
Director, Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, Health Policy, and International Health