

Resolution No. 1520-09

Council Members Cimperman, Westbrook, Kelley, Miller, Keane, Brady, Mitchell, Sweeney, Dow, Cloud, Zone.

FOR ADOPTION
October 19, 2009

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Urging voters to vote 'NO' on Ohio Issue 2 which would change the Ohio Constitution to establish an appointed "Livestock Care Standards Board".

WHEREAS, if passed, Ohio Issue 2 would make permanent in the Ohio Constitution the Livestock Care Standards Board (the "Board") with unchecked power to develop guidelines for raising livestock and with the potential to reshape regulations on how animals in Ohio are raised, tracked or traced; and

WHEREAS, this 13 member Board of political appointees would have far-reaching and unchecked authority to establish standards governing the care and well-being of livestock and poultry in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Board established under Ohio Issue 2, would have the power to override any act by the Ohio Department of Agriculture or the state legislature, or any other initiative or referendum brought before the Ohio public other than a constitutional amendment; and

WHEREAS, this Board would have the power to create all policies in Ohio related to animals in agriculture, affecting not just welfare concerns but also a wide variety of animal-related issues including the regulation of organic meat production, animal identification and concentrated animal feeding operations ("factory farms"); and

WHEREAS, it is generally recognized that the Board will most likely be comprised of people with corporate agri-business and factory farming interests, at the expense of family farmers; and

WHEREAS, the Board could potentially implement standards that would make raising food in an organic or sustainable manner excessively expensive or burdensome, driving small farmers out of business and hurting local economies; and

WHEREAS, the US Department of Agriculture states that 98% of all farms in the US are technically family farms, however, Ohio has nearly 200 factory farms – which number would increase if an industry-led board decides to ease regulations on animal production; and

WHEREAS, voters should reject Ohio Issue 2 because it would create a permanent place for special interests in the Ohio Constitution, with no formal process for public input, review, evaluation or appeal of decisions made related to animal agriculture in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council hereby urges voters to vote 'NO' on Ohio Issue 2 which would change the Ohio Constitution to establish an appointed "Livestock Care Standards Board".

Section 2. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

JC:rns
10-19-09

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REPORT

after second Reading

Council Members Cimperman, Westbrook, Kelley, Miller, Keane, Brady, Mitchell, Sweeney, Dow, Cloud, Zone.

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READ FIRST TIME

REPORTS

and referred to
by the council

CITY CLERK

READ SECOND TIME

by the council

CITY CLERK

READ THIRD TIME

by the council

October 19, 2009.

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

APPROVED

MAYOR

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Page

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