

April 4, 2013

Assemblymember Jim Patterson
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 343 – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Patterson,

We are writing today to formally oppose your Assembly Bill 343 (AB 343).

Across the country, our organizations have observed a troubling pattern of anti-whistleblower legislation being introduced under the auspices of preventing animal cruelty at agricultural facilities. We see this trend has reached California in the form of AB 343 and we share deep concerns about the language and the intent of this legislation.

This bill and those like it in other states are aimed squarely at limiting whistleblowing, chilling free speech and keeping the public unaware of animal abuse and food safety problems on factory farms. Animal protection groups have made a point of gaining employment at plants around the country for the purpose of exposing cruelty and poor/dangerous working conditions. A 2008 investigation of a dairy cow slaughter plant in Chino, California prompted the largest meat recall in U.S. history, identified fraud on the federal government's school lunch program, and resulted in criminal convictions. AB 343 would stop workers from exposing such cruelty and fraud, not stop the cruelty and fraud itself.

We urge you to drop this effort and work toward finding meaningful reforms in the way animals and workers are treated in California's animal agriculture sector.

Sincerely,





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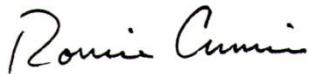
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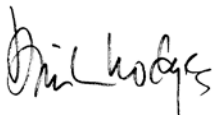
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