
GLORIA STEINEM

December 6, 2006

San Diego City Council
202 C St.
10th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear San Diego City Council members,

I am writing to support the proposed ban on the sale of foie gras in San Diego. Such a ban is neither a frivolous nor a secondary concern. It is a vital and logical part of the movement against violence and the desensitizing of human beings that allows ever-greater sadism. That's why the governments of the U.K., Germany, the Czech Republic, Finland, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, and Israel have banned foie gras and why the state of California has voted to ban it too.

I am asking that you take a few minutes to watch a documentary narrated by Sir Roger Moore, who himself was shocked and sickened to learn the facts of the foie gras industry. Even those who defend the industry do not deny what is exposed in this video footage—which was taken on the only three foie gras farms in the United States—but instead, they are counting on the fact that you will not see it or see other such reports.

Unless they are same people who pour lye down the throats of dogs, who dismember living cats and horses—as we know serial killers do in practicing and callusing themselves for committing atrocities against humans, who are also animals—it's hard to imagine the possibility of the dehumanizing economic pressure that allows watching or participating in the constant invasion of the bodies of living things as they are tortured over time, rescued by death only just before the point of bursting.

Perhaps the only rough justice so far is that foie gras is also dangerous to the health of those who habitually eat it. If it had originated with McDonald's instead of in gourmet restaurants as a "delicacy," it would have been the subject of public health pressure for banning long ago. It is protected now only by the profits of the very few and the elitism and ignorance of the many.

If you proceed, you will be able to be proud for taking the courageous stance of being the second municipality in the United States to ban foie gras. It will make it possible for thousands of visitors to San Diego to eat in the city's restaurants without calling first to make sure that there is no foie gras on the menu. I hope that you will watch this documentary and then make the compassionate choice to ban foie gras in San Diego.

Sincerely,

Gloria Steinem

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