



New York State Humane Association

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August 3, 2026

The Honorable Letitia James
Attorney General of the State of New York
Office of the Attorney General
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

RE: Support for New York City's Foie Gras Ban (Local Law 202)

Dear Attorney General James:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of our organization to respectfully request that your office support New York City's authority to enforce Local Law 202, which bans the local sale of foie gras.

We are writing specifically to address a key point raised in your recent July 2026 petition to the New York Court of Appeals. In that filing, your office expressed concern that allowing this local ban could set a precedent threatening other vital state agricultural sectors, suggesting it could pave the way for local bans on essential commodities like dairy products or eggs. We respectfully argue that comparing foie gras to the egg and dairy industries overlooks fundamental biological and procedural distinctions.

Unlike foie gras, the production of eggs and dairy relies on natural physiological functions rather than forced bodily alteration. Egg-laying is a natural biological cycle inherent to chickens; they are not forced or manipulated through external physical intervention to perform this function. Similarly, dairy cows naturally produce milk as a direct biological result of giving birth to a calf.

In sharp contrast, foie gras production relies entirely on **gavage**—the deliberate, artificial insertion of feeding tubes to force-feed ducks and geese multiple times a day. This process is not a natural biological function, but a mechanism designed to artificially expand the animal's liver to many times its normal size.

Because foie gras relies on an intentional, non-natural practice to induce a diseased state, it stands entirely apart from standard egg and dairy farming. Banning its retail sale is a localized ethical standard on a luxury item, not a threat to standard agricultural commodities.

We deeply respect your commitment to protecting New York's agricultural economy. However, because of the extremely inhumane procedures involved on only two New York State farms to obtain an expensive delicacy for the very wealthy, we urge your office not to block Local Law 202 and to allow New York City's local welfare standards to stand.

Thank you for your leadership, time, and thoughtful consideration.

Warm regards,

Laura-Ann Cammisa, President

The New York State Humane Association was formed in 1900 and incorporated in 1925. Our guiding principle is to promote compassion to animals and prevent animal cruelty, through education about and enforcement of the NYS anti-cruelty laws. NYSHA, a 501(c)(3) organization, is not a department of nor funded by New York State or any other government agency.