

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 17, 2023

The Honorable Eric Adams
Mayor of New York City
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor Adams,

On behalf of the hardworking families and employees of duck and goose farmers throughout the Hudson Valley, I strongly encourage the New York City Council to abide by the decision from the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) to overturn Local Law 202, the City Council's law banning the sale of foie gras products in city limits. This bill would have severe economic consequences on businesses and families throughout the Hudson Valley region.

The economic impact of duck and goose farming operations in Sullivan County, New York cannot be overstated. Just two medium sized farms generate \$50 million in sales annually and directly employ nearly 400 workers with high wage jobs.ⁱ These economic benefits do not even account for the estimated \$150 million in additional revenue that these operations generate for the local community.ⁱⁱ Duck and goose farms procure, grain, fuel, transportation, and many other services from local businesses and dozens of vendors who are as integrally related to foie gras sales as the farmworkers themselves. New York City accounts for an estimated 30% of revenue for many Sullivan County duck and goose farms.ⁱⁱⁱ A sweeping ban of their product in the principal market they rely on would have a devastating economic effect on the farm owners and workers, their families, and the vast network of businesses involved with the farm operations.

Beyond the economic toll, Local Law 202 arbitrarily targets duck and goose farms that are regularly inspected and compliant with all state and federal animal welfare regulations. New York City's attempt to impose authority on legal farming practices that happen outside of its jurisdiction would establish an alarming precedent for all farmers and food producers in New York State. NYSDAM recognized the legislative overreach of this law and ruled accordingly.^{iv} In the interest of the farmworkers, restaurant owners, and countless other New Yorkers who earn a livelihood through foie gras sales, I respectfully ask that you and the New York City Council accept the NYSDAM's ruling and cease all efforts to restrict foie gras.

Thank you for your time and attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Marcus J. Molinaro
Member of Congress

ⁱ Demeranville, "Part II: All Duck or No Dinner," *The River Reporter*,
November 10, 2021, <https://riverreporter.com/stories/part-ii-all-duck-or-no-dinner.49615?>

ⁱⁱ Demeranville, "Part II: All Duck or No Dinner."

ⁱⁱⁱ Keller, "Epicures and Duck Farms Get a Reprieve From New York's Foie Gras Ban," *The Wall Street Journal*,
December 19, 2022, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-reprieve-for-new-york-city-epicures-and-duck-farms-foie-gras-ban-agriculture-department-albany-11671478407>

^{iv} State of New York Department of Agriculture and Markets, "Orders Issued Pursuant to 305-a: 22-2"
December 14, 2022, <https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/01/2022-2.pdf>