

August 26, 2019

Dear Mayor Eric Garcetti and City Council Members of Los Angeles:

We are writing to urge you to vote in favor of Councilmember Paul Koretz's Motion to ensure the availability of vegan protein entree options at LAX, as well as through various City departments and their programs, including, but not limited to, the Department of Aging, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Zoo. Further, we urge you to support the drafting of an ordinance to require all movie theaters and large-scale entertainment venues in the City that offer food for sale, to include at least one vegan protein entree food option on their menus.

As Councilmember Koretz correctly points out, the interest in, and demand for, vegan food options has exploded in recent years, as more and more people recognize the deleterious impact of industrial animal agriculture on individual health, animal welfare, and the environment. Increasingly, consumers choose to leave animals off their plates, and the food industry has responded to this demand.

This demand for vegan options has been heard - and met - across the country by major restaurants like Burger King, who recently introduced the Impossible Whooper, a 100% plant-based burger patty served up in their iconic fashion, on their national menu; Del Taco, who now has multiple vegan food options with Beyond Meat on their menu; and Subway, who just announced the addition of a vegan meatball sub to their menu.

As you know, in 2018, California passed Proposition 12, a historic ballot measure which bans some of the most extreme confinement of farm animals, with a 63% vote. In Los Angeles County, 2 million people, or 71%, voted in favor of the proposition. Angelenos overwhelmingly, and vocally, oppose cruelty to farm animals, and the cruel practices utilized in modern animal agriculture. For many, this influences their dietary choices and commitment to living a compassionate lifestyle.

Further, the availability of plant-based, vegan food options is essential in avoiding the catastrophic effects of climate change by reducing the harmful greenhouse gas emissions caused by animal agriculture. In May of 2018, The Guardian published an article titled "Avoiding meat and dairy is 'single biggest way' to reduce your impact on Earth". The article discusses the results of a study, led by Joseph Poore at the University of Oxford and published in the journal, Science, which shows that the farming of beef results in the emission of up to 230 lbs. of greenhouse gases for about a quarter pound of meat, while a quarter pound of tofu or nuts produces less than 8 lbs.

In July of 2018, researchers at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and the NGO, GRAIN, released a report titled "Emissions impossible: How big meat and dairy are heating up the planet". A major finding revealed in this report is that meat and dairy corporations are set to surpass large oil companies as the largest emitters of greenhouse gases. If left unchecked, emissions from animal agriculture are projected to increase by 80%, by 2050, according to the researchers behind "Global diets link environmental sustainability and human health" published in the journal, Nature. The evidence is clear - meat and dairy consumption must be reduced if we are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prevent further destruction to our planet.

Date: 9-26-19  
Submitted in HENPAR Committee  
Council File No: 11-1078-SS  
Item No: 2  
Deputy: PUBLIC

The City of Los Angeles is well-known for its commitment to a healthy lifestyle, compassion in reducing animal suffering, and its efforts in protecting the environment. I am confident the City wants to continue to be a leader and an example to other cities on these important issues, and certainly does not want to lag behind within its own departments and the concessionaires which it controls or has the opportunity to influence. The adoption of Councilmember Koretz's Motion is a notable step in the right direction in leading the way to create a healthier, cleaner, and more compassionate future.

Sincerely,

The Humane League

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