

**NEW YORK  
CITY BAR**

**Legislative Affairs-(212) 382-6655**

Honorable David A. Paterson  
Governor, New York State  
633 Third Avenue, 39<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10017

Re: Senate Bill # S5920-A, and  
Assembly Bill # A00246B

Dear Governor Paterson,

The above referenced bills which, in effect, prohibit the issuance of licenses to new slaughterhouses located within 1,500 feet of residential properties, was passed unanimously by both the Assembly and the Senate and now awaits your signature to become law.

As of 2007, there were approximately 90 live poultry markets in the City of New York. The stated justification of this bill is that New York City has been unable to control the health threats resulting from the "continued siting of live poultry markets in the midst of [its] dense, urban and often residential areas". These markets have been linked with poor air quality and numerous health threats, including asthma, allergy and respiratory hazards. Additionally, the unsanitary environment is a potential breeding ground for foodborne diseases such as salmonellosis and avian influenza.

The signing of this bill into law takes on greater urgency since there is an application for a permit to open another slaughterhouse in South East Queens, with only a fence separating this business from homes where there are children, seniors and people with respiratory problems residing. The quality of life for these residents will be unfairly compromised and they will suffer the economic burden of a decline in property value. The Justification section of the bill concludes, "Markets that profit in the on-site slaughter of animals have had a significantly negative impact on residential and retail communities and steps must be taken to provide for better planning so that the well-being of residents and the character of the city are preserved."

With your signing of this legislation into law, a significant step will be taken to protect the residents of New York City.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Jane Hoffman  
Chair  
Committee on Legal Issues Pertaining to Animals  
The New York City Bar Association