



SAN
FRANCISCO
**CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

September 27, 2017

The Honorable Hillary Ronen
Chair, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room #244
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: File No. 170763 Antibiotic Use in Food

Dear Supervisor Ronen:

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, representing 2,500 local businesses, including many local grocery retailers, is writing to urge you to consider amending the Antibiotic Use in Food ordinance which is before your committee this morning.

Specially, Section 2705 in the substitute version introduced last week, expands the enforcement provisions beyond what was set forth in the original draft and what had been discussed with the Department of Environment. Section 2705 (d) gives a private right of action to non-profit organizations to sue grocers where the city, for whatever reason, decides not to pursue an alleged violation. Enforcement of local ordinances should rest administratively with the Department and ultimately with the City Attorney. In recent years, the City Attorney has shown no unwillingness to file suits on behalf of the people of San Francisco where he feels the facts warrant - I am sure that would be the case under this ordinance. A private right of action can only expose grocers to unnecessary legal threats.

Thank you in advance for considering this narrow amendment to the Antibiotic Use in Food ordinance.

Sincerely,

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President of Public Policy

cc. Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, to be distributed to all Supervisors; Department of the Environment, California Grocers Association