



**Mar Vista
Community Council**

P.O. Box 66871
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2011-2012**

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Certified Neighborhood Council
August 13, 2002

August 7, 2012

TO: Holly J. Mitchell, Assemblymember, 47th District
District Representative John Kernick john.kernick@asm.ca.gov

Dear Assemblymember Mitchell:

On behalf of the Mar Vista Community Council, I am writing to officially express our support for AB 1616, the California Homemade Food Act, authored by Assembly member Mike Gatto. The California Homemade Food Act will legalize artisanal food production and promote neighborhood-based economic opportunities for micro-entrepreneurs.

We recognize the Act's potential to help residents more easily launch small businesses by using their home kitchens and encourages the use of fresh, locally sourced ingredients like those available at our Mar Vista Farmer's Market on Grandview Boulevard. We believe this will enhance our neighborhood's food environment and is aligned with the efforts of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council.

By helping return food production to the local level, the Homemade Food Act represents an effort to strengthen bonds between local residents and businesses as neighbors produce food specifically for their community. We believe that those who prepare food for loved ones, friends and neighbors naturally hold themselves to a high standard and level of accountability for the health and safety of those they feed and that the human connection is an important ingredient in food prepared by local residents for local residents. At the same time, we recognize the importance of protecting the public against food-borne illness, and we are confident that the education, training, registration, permitting, and inspection provisions of the California Homemade Food Act will enable California's Environmental Health Departments to safeguard the public's health as these not-potentially-hazardous foods enter the marketplace.

We also support the California Homemade Food Act's stance on zoning laws. It will require local governments to classify such operations as an allowable use of residential property in accordance with local zoning ordinances and in no way create an inappropriate public use of a residential community.

Thank you for giving the California Homemade Food Act, AB1616, the strongest consideration at a time when our economy and our food system would benefit greatly from it.

Sincerely,

Sharon Commins, Chair
Mar Vista Community Council