



Senator Carole Migden's Press Conference
Mandatory Labeling of Meat & Dairy Products
From Cloned Animals

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Hello, everyone.

Today we are facing a major crisis: **Cloning is endangering the American food supply.**

I've been a dairy farmer all my life. And now, I stand here today, because **cloning poses a threat to the future of my farm.**

Our family began farming in 1941 along the shores of Tomales Bay in Marin County. In 1993, I converted it to an organic dairy farm, making it the first organic dairy west of the Mississippi River. In 1994, I opened Straus Family Creamery to bottle organic milk in reusable glass bottles as well as make organic butter, yogurt and ice cream.



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But today, we are facing increasing threats to our economic survival. As an organic farmer, I am alarmed by the growing threats to our food supply. Some of these include:

- 🐄 the continuing decline of the family farm;
- 🐄 the rise in genetically modified crops including corn, soybean and alfalfa;
- 🐄 the increasing dependence on hormones, antibiotics, and pesticides among conventional dairy farms;
- 🐄 and now, the cloning of dairy cows.

Cloning is of grave concern to me. In my opinion, every American has reason to be concerned about cloning.

The announcement made by the FDA in December 2006 to allow cloned animals into our meat and dairy supply, is yet another dangerous step in our food and farm policy.



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I am opposed to cloning for three simple reasons:

1. cloning is *unnatural*
2. cloning is *untested*
3. cloning is *not organic*

Cloning is unnatural. Cloning is a method of reproduction that never occurs naturally in mammals. My number one concern has always been the health of my animals. Shortened life spans and animal deformities, which have occurred in early cloning attempts, are just the beginning of the dangerous results cloning will bring.



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Cloning is untested. Cloning has not been adequately tested over time for animal health and well-being.

Organic, sustainable farming is about minimizing the risks to our planet, while cloning only increases the unknown risks to our children and our world.

Cloning is not organic because it is not possible under natural conditions and is not compatible with organic values. A recent recommendation by the National Organic Standards Board stated that cloning should be prohibited from all organic production methods.

I strongly believe that cloning should be banned completely. ***So, I am asking the FDA to take action. Straus Family Creamery calls upon the FDA to reverse its approval of cloned animals for meat and dairy uses.***



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However, if cloning is allowed, Straus Family Creamery **strongly** supports the passage of SB 63, which would require the labeling of dairy products from cloned animals. **The public cannot allow cloned-animal dairy products onto store shelves without having adequate warning labels.**

Our safety depends on knowing that our food is truly safe and sustainably produced.

I applaud Senator Migden for her continued good work and tireless efforts to address the concerns of consumers. I also want to keep California consumers aware of their food choices.

And, I would like to keep farming organically for many more years to come without the threat of a food system that is unnatural, untested and not organic.

Thank you for inviting me to speak here today.