



July 7, 2020

**RE: Los Angeles Live Animal Markets**

To whom it may concern,

Slaughterhouses and live markets are settings where pathogens can cross the species-barrier by jumping from animals to humans. Animals kept in unnatural conditions and confined in crowded, unsanitary cages, readily transmit infection to each other. This poses a risk to humans when infected animals come into contact with humans. Humans can become infected with the new pathogen, much like we are experiencing today with Covid-19. There is a specific concern about flu, whereby a person co-infected with a human and animal virus can lead to recombination and the generation of a novel virus with pandemic potential. Influenza viruses in animals be a source of human infections and even lead to pandemics. For example - a pandemic caused by H2N2 claimed over a million lives in the late 1950's. The presence of live animal slaughterhouses in a city as heavily populated as Los Angeles poses an unacceptable risk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Lopman".

Ben Lopman, PhD, MSc

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