



HB 357: Confinement of Egg-Laying Hens in Commercial Egg Production
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Terps For Bike Lanes – FAVORABLE

February 12, 2024

Chair Korman and Committee Members,

I am writing to express Terps for Bike Lanes' enthusiastic support for HB0357, a bill that aims to improve the welfare of egg-laying hens by prohibiting certain confinement practices and ensuring humane treatment. As the President of Terps for Bike Lanes, a club dedicated to enhancing bicycle infrastructure in and around our campus to create a safe and inclusive environment, this issue holds particular significance to me and our organization.

A study by Liebhart et al. (2019) published in *Poultry Science* investigates the effects of different housing systems on egg production, egg quality, and bone strength of laying hens. The research compares conventional cage systems with alternative systems such as enriched colony cages and free-range systems. Findings indicate that providing hens with adequate space and environmental enrichment positively impacts their welfare and enhances egg quality. This research underscores the importance of implementing humane farming practices, aligning with the goals of HB0357 to improve the living conditions of egg-laying hens and ensure their humane treatment.

Our advocacy efforts extend beyond just enhancing bike lanes; we are committed to promoting sustainability, accessibility, and equity in all aspects of community life, including food production. Therefore, we wholeheartedly support HB0357 and its provisions to protect the welfare of egg-laying hens.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Marks

President, Terps for Bike Lanes

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