



VIA MGALEG.MARYLAND.GOV

Bill: House Bill 357
Committee: House Environment and Transportation
Position: Favor
Date: February 7, 2024

Support for HB 357: Maryland's Cage-Free Egg Legislation

Farm Sanctuary, on behalf of our Maryland members, strongly supports House Bill 357, which will prohibit the production and sale of eggs under conditions where hens are subjected to extreme battery cage confinement.

Hens exploited by the egg industry are confined in cages so tightly that they cannot engage in their most basic natural behaviors like perching, nesting, or spreading their wings. In addition to inflicting immense suffering on hens, these inhumane and stressful environments pose health risks to humans, including spreading diseases like salmonella.

HB 357 presents a timely opportunity to prevent needless suffering and protect Maryland communities. In addition to family farmers, major corporations like McDonald's have successfully transitioned away from battery cage egg production. Over 200 other companies, including Maryland-based Marriott and Sodexo, have committed to a 100% cage-free egg supply.

Farmers, corporate suppliers, and animal advocates all agree that it is time to end the cruel confinement of birds in battery cages. We urge the House Environment and Transportation Committee to progress HB 357 in the Maryland legislature.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,

Gene Baur, Co-Founder & President of Farm Sanctuary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Baur", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.