

My name is Jenna Linhart and I'm a resident of Frostburg, MD. I would like to voice my support for the SB0806, and in fact, voice that I actually wish the timeline was sooner and that the parameters to protect quality of life for chickens/hens were even stronger.

I wish it was mandatory for every person voting on this legislation to first tour one or more of these caged facilities. Witnessing a living thing in pro-longed agony, smelling the result of intense density and confinement, and seeing the lack of respect given to these creatures (that are providing food for us) may change the hearts and minds of the "they're just chickens" folks.

Animal welfare:

Every time I drive by a windowless chicken barn, my heart sinks. I don't need to see through the walls to know what's on the other side. You can just smell the unmistakable stink of misery and suffering. I've not set foot inside one myself, but I've seen videos of the conditions inside. I've smelled the unmistakable pungent odor of too many living things being treated as though they don't have an inherent right to be treated with respect. I've read about the incredible concentration of birds inside, that some are even crushed to death as result. While labels like "cage-free" and "free-range" may make us feel better, they really just mean slightly less torture – but sadly if that is the best option on the table, at least it's just that, slightly less torture.

Factory farming might be a common practice these days, but it doesn't make it right. Animals being treated as things instead of sentient creatures is far from the way things used to be done.

As a chicken owner myself, I've experienced their unique personalities first hand. My birds come when they are called, a few wait outside the glass door for me to come outside, I even had one that would jump in the hammock with my dog and I and go to sleep on my chest. I recently saw a before and after picture of a hen who came from a cage egg-laying factory (I

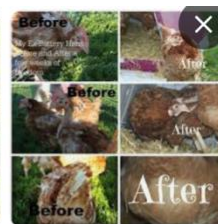
Not your typical before and after! Hei hei the chicken 2 months after being rescued from cage farming



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After only 3 months in a ...



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BackYard Chickens
Rescued Battery Hens ! ...



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Before and after rescuin...



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Same hen, 4 months lat...



Reddit
Same hen, 4 months lat...



Bitchin' Chickens



will not call them farms). The first picture was of the day she was removed from there, and then another picture a few months later. I don't need to describe what 2 months of being treated like a living thing can do to a creature...in fact, I came across a number of these before and afters...see below.

Quality of Product:

When my birds are laying enough for my family, I buy other locally sourced pasture raised eggs. When I can't find locally sourced, I then only buy pasture raised eggs from bigger stores. All of these options blow factory produced eggs out of the water in terms of taste and quality. The color is night and day too.

Environmental and public health considerations:

I'm an environmental scientist and as one, I understand the interconnectedness of the socio-environmental world and the impacts that anthropogenic practices can have on environmental processes. The industrialization of raising livestock raises so many environmental and public health concerns. Here in Maryland, our Chesapeake Bay is one of the main life bloods of the economy. Pollution from these egg laying facilities jeopardizes water quality in the Bay and the freshwater sources before it. Crammed, dirty, disrespectful living conditions for egg laying hens increases the likelihood that they are in poor physical condition, and that they are in higher densities. Both of these factors can play a role in the spread of diseases. Not only does the risk of disease increase the potential need for mass slaughtering of egg hens to contain outbreak, it also puts public health at risk and the health of important wildlife populations.

Thank you,
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