

Testimony in Support of SB 806 – Cage-Free Egg Legislation

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the committee,

My name is Kim Alexander, and I am proud to represent Heartwood Farm, located in Friendsville. At Heartwood, we believe in the humane treatment of animals, and our practices reflect that belief every single day.

Our hens are more than a part of our farm—they are part of a thriving, natural ecosystem where their well-being is prioritized. They are free to move, stretch their wings, and engage in the natural behaviors that are critical to their health and happiness. These freedoms are fundamental to their quality of life and to the high-quality eggs they produce.

When hens are confined to cages, they are denied the ability to move freely or express these natural behaviors. Instead, they are subjected to a life of stress, immobility, and suffering. Such conditions are not just inhumane but also at odds with Maryland's reputation as a state that values progress and compassion.

SB 806 is a vital step in ensuring that all egg-laying hens in Maryland are afforded a basic standard of care—one that allows them to live with the ability to roam, forage, and stretch. This bill aligns with both consumer demand for responsibly sourced products and the growing national momentum toward cage-free practices.

Happier hens mean healthier animals and better products, and it also means peace of mind for farmers and consumers alike. By passing SB 806, you have the opportunity to bring these benefits to farms and families across the state.

We urge you to support this critical legislation. Maryland's leadership on this issue will set an example for others to follow, proving that humane farming practices are not only possible but essential.

Thank you for considering this important measure.

Sincerely,
Kim Alexander
Heartwood Farm
Friendsville, MD