

Bill: SB0806

Committee: Environment, Energy, and the Environment

Position: Support

Members of the Environment, Energy, and the Environment:

Our names are Lisa Campion and William Bastian, and we are Maryland residents who strongly support SB806/HB0834, which would ban the sale of eggs from battery-caged hens. As consumers who care about food safety, public health, and ethical food production, we believe this bill is a necessary step forward for our state.

One of the most pressing concerns with battery cage egg production is the increased risk of foodborne illness. Research has consistently shown that eggs from battery-caged hens have a higher risk of salmonella contamination compared to eggs from cage-free systems. Given that eggs are a staple in many households, schools, and restaurants, it is critical that we prioritize food safety and reduce the potential for outbreaks that could harm Maryland families.

In addition to health risks, the vast majority of consumers today prefer to purchase products that align with their values. Many grocery stores and restaurant chains have already committed to going cage-free because they recognize that customers want more humane options. By passing SB806/HB0834, Maryland would ensure that all consumers—regardless of where they shop or dine—have access to eggs that meet higher animal welfare and food safety standards.

Finally, Maryland has an opportunity to align with the growing national movement toward cage-free production. States like California, Washington, Massachusetts, and Oregon have already enacted similar laws, and the largest egg producers are already adapting to meet this new standard. Maryland should not lag behind on this important issue.

For these reasons, we urge you to support SB806/HB0834. It is a commonsense measure that will improve food safety, meet consumer demand, and ensure Maryland moves toward a more responsible and sustainable food system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Campion and William Bastian

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