



DMV VOTERS

FOR ANIMALS

Chair Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland General Assembly
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Confinement of Egg-Laying Hens in Commercial Egg Production
SB0806

February 25, 2025

Dear Chair Feldman and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee –

DMV Voters for Animals is a non-profit lifting up the policies and politicians doing the most for animals in the DMV metropolitan region.

The bill SB0806 Confinement of Egg-Laying Hens in Commercial Egg Production proposes to prohibit the extreme confinement of chickens who provide the eggs that Marylanders and others throughout the country eat. If you can entertain the idea that a chicken is sentient—capable of feeling sensations, pain, and emotions—you can see that this bill will make a world of difference.

While discussions about animal welfare often focus on statistics, I want to bring your attention to the lived experience of just one hen—so that we might understand what this bill truly means for those whose lives depend on it.

You are born into a world that will never let you be who you are.

You are a hen. Your body was made to move—to scratch at the earth, to explore your surroundings, to perch high in the trees where you feel safe. You long to stretch your wings wide, to dust bathe and clean yourself the way your instincts urge you to. You crave the simple pleasure of building a nest, of finding the perfect quiet corner to lay your egg. These desires are not taught; they are a part of you.

But in this world, none of that is possible.

From the moment you are placed in a battery cage, your body is no longer your own. The space around you is barely bigger than you are, shared with so many others that



your movements are not your choice. If you try to stretch, you hit a wall of feathers and wire. If you try to step forward, your feet meet cold metal, the sharp grid of the cage floor cutting into you. The air is thick with ammonia, and your lungs burn with every breath.

You have never seen the sky. You have never felt rain. Your wings—made for flight—hang useless at your sides.

The others around you suffer just as you do. Some grow weak and die, their bodies pressed against yours because there is nowhere else for them to go. You learn to exist without ever really living.

All the while, the world outside moves on, unaware of what it feels like to be you. Battery cages do not just confine hens—they erase them. They deny the most fundamental expressions of what it means to be a chicken. They take away movement, comfort, and choice; forcing living, feeling beings into a lifetime of deprivation.

This bill is not about ending egg production. It is about recognizing that the animals we rely on for food are living, feeling individuals—not machines. The suffering that battery cages inflict is both unnecessary and unjustifiable. Maryland has the opportunity to align itself with a growing movement toward more humane treatment of farmed animals, as several other states have already done.

I urge you to vote yes on SB0806 Confinement of Egg-Laying Hens in Commercial Egg Production.

Sincerely,

Max Broad

Executive Director
DMV Voters for Animals



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