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Bill: House Bill 834
Committee: House Environment and Transportation
Position: Favor
Date: February 17, 2025

Support for HB 834: Maryland's Cage-Free Egg Legislation

Farm Sanctuary, on behalf of our Maryland members, strongly supports House Bill 834, 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, walking, or spreading their wings. In addition to inflicting immense suffering on hens, these inhumane and stressful environments are a breeding ground for disease and pose health risks to humans. Alongside animal welfare and environmental organizations, consumer protection organizations like the Center for Science in the Public Interest and Center for Food Safety also support cage-free reforms.

HB 854 presents a timely opportunity to prevent needless suffering and protect Maryland communities. In addition to family farmers, corporations like McDonald's recognize the need for reforms and 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 because it's an affordable and feasible way to do better by consumers and farm animals.

Farmers, corporate suppliers, and animal advocates all agree that it is time to end the cruel confinement of birds in battery cages. We urge members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee to vote YES on HB 854.

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, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.