February 19, 2025

Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee House Office Building, Room 251 6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

Amaranth Acres is a family-owned farmed in Dickerson; we come from a long line of farmers. We're proud to produce eggs from pasture-raised hens and ducks. The quality of the eggs, the color and the texture are all better because of the way we treat our birds.

Cage-free egg farming is the future. It is more humane, produces safer eggs (since caged housing has been associated with higher salmonella risks) and meets the growing consumer demand for ethically raised food.

I hope the committee with support HB 834 for the sake of our animals, our consumers, and the integrity of Maryland agriculture.

Sincerely,

Indhu Balasubramaniam Amaranth Acres 22814 W Harris Rd Dickerson, MD 20842 amaranthacres.com