

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

RE: Support for HB 834

To the Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I own and operate Chicken of the Woods Permaculture Farm in Darnestown. In addition to growing organic market produce, we raise chickens and ducks.

My experience in raising birds confirms my belief that hens deserve better than cramped cages where they're nearly immobilized. As a farmer, I believe in treating animals with care and respect. HB 834 ensures that laying hens have space to move, which reduces stress, improves health, and provides better welfare.

Maryland should be a leader in humane farming practices. Please support HB 834.

Respectfully,

Bridgette Downer