

February 19, 2025

To the Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

I am the owner-operator of Cottingham Farm in Easton. We are growers of heirloom vegetables and herbs; strictly organic-fed pastured heritage Berkshire Pork, Freedom Ranger chickens and chicken eggs; and carbon farmers on the banks of the Goldsborough Creek in Talbot County, Maryland. We believe we must return to the times of organically growing healthy and nutritious food for people to eat, which is why our chickens and egg-laying hens are entirely pasture-raised and able to engage in natural behaviors, like dustbathing. In addition, research has shown that eggs from hens kept in cages have higher instances of salmonella contamination.

For these reasons, we support HB0834 and request that the Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee support it as well.

Thank you,

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