



Monroe County Legislature

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ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

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Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
Memorializing Reform -L

October 10, 2008

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

Re: Memorializing Local Grocers and Food Markets to Stop Selling Eggs from Hens in Battery Cages

Honorable Legislators:

A typical battery cage, used on commercial farms to confine egg-laying hens, holds four to seven hens, allowing each bird living space equivalent in size to a sheet of notebook paper. Battery cages cruelly restrict a hen's freedom of movement and inhibit the animal's physical and social behaviors. Hens confined to cages often do not have enough space to walk or spread their wings, and suffer the intense frustration of being unable to perform instinctual behaviors such as perching, foraging, dust bathing, and nesting.

For many years, animal welfare organizations have worked to raise public awareness of the abysmal living conditions endured by hens used for commercial egg production, and a growing number of consumers and companies are responding to their concerns. National food chains Whole Foods and Trader Joe's, corporations such as AOL and Google, and over 350 U.S. colleges and universities, including the University of Rochester, have ended or greatly reduced their use of eggs from caged hens. Compass Group and Bon Appétit Management, two major food service providers, have recently made the switch to cage-free eggs. The entire European Union has voted to phase out the use of battery cages by 2012.

Several local grocers and food markets continue to sell eggs from hens in battery cages. As leaders in both business and the community, our local grocers and markets should respect animal welfare concerns and put an end to this practice. Therefore, I urge you to join me in opposing battery-cage egg production and encouraging local grocers and food markets to stop selling eggs from hens in battery cages.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Andrews
Legislator - District 21

C. Stephen Eckel
Legislator - District 26
Cynthia W. Kaleh
Legislator - District 28