



It's Time to Ban Barren Battery Cages Nationwide

Ask Congress to Support the Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments of 2012

The momentum has been building across the United States. Undercover investigations have exposed the cruelty of barren battery cages, where egg-laying hens are stacked in small, wire cages, and each bird has about a third the space of this newspaper ad and can barely move an inch for her entire life.

Restaurant chains, grocery stores, hospitals, and university campuses have stopped purchasing battery cage eggs. California voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 2 to ban extreme confinement of hens, and several states have passed laws on the issue.

But now animal advocates have a unique opportunity to improve the treatment of hundreds of millions of hens. Not just in a handful of states, but throughout the entire egg industry in the United States.

Urge your members of Congress to SUPPORT the Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments of 2012. This important farm animal protection legislation would:

- Replace every conventional battery cage in America with new, enriched colony housing systems that provide all egg-laying hens nearly double the amount of current space, or producers can go entirely cage-free;
- Require that all egg-laying hens be provided with environmental enrichments, such as perches, nesting boxes, and scratching areas, that will allow hens to express more natural behaviors;
- Mandate labeling on all egg cartons nationwide to inform consumers of the method used to produce the eggs—"eggs from caged hens," "eggs from hens in enriched cages," "eggs from cage-free hens," and "eggs from free-range hens";
- Prohibit feed- or water-withdrawal forced molting to extend the laying cycle;
- Require standards for euthanasia of egg-laying hens;

The beef and pork industries are desperately trying to kill this bill.

Let's ensure they don't win!

- Prohibit excessive ammonia levels in henhouses; and
- Prohibit the transport and sale of eggs and egg products nationwide that don't meet these requirements.

Here are just a few reasons to support the Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments of 2012:

- There is no pathway to ban battery cages in the major egg-producing states like Iowa, Minnesota, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. Legislators aligned with agribusiness in some of those states are trying to ban undercover investigations rather than address extreme confinement practices. The federal bill will help all 280 million hens in the U.S., regardless of the political landscape in each state.
- It's stronger than the European Union law, which was rightly hailed as a major victory for animal welfare. In addition to providing more space than the EU law, it will also ban other abusive practices such as forced molting through starvation and high ammonia levels.
- A national labeling program will drive the market toward higher welfare practices. When consumers have information about where eggs come from right on the carton, they will be more likely to choose cage-free and free-range options, encouraging producers to transition to meet that demand.
- The new housing requirements are phased in every few years, while some of the important elements of the legislation take effect just one year after enactment.
- The legislation amends a 40-year-old statute dealing with interstate commerce in egg products, and will not override general state anti-cruelty statutes dealing with animal abuse or interfere with other animal issues.

All the groups that have been leading the fight to ban battery cages—such as those listed below—actively support this legislation, because it's the best opportunity to help the largest number of farm animals. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Pork Producers Council, American Farm Bureau Federation, and their allies in Congress are lobbying to kill this bill, and animal advocates must not let them succeed!

Please call your U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators today at (202) 224-3121, and urge them to **SUPPORT** the Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments of 2012. Visit humansociety.org for more information on how you can help.

