

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** David Brunetti <davidabrunetti1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2024 8:07 PM  
**To:** Rep. Solomon, Joseph J. Jr.; Rep. O'Brien, William W.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casey, Stephen M.; Rep. DeSimone, Anthony J.; Rep. Finkelman, Alex S.; Rep. Kennedy, Brian Patrick; Rep. McGaw, Michelle E.; Rep. Newberry, Brian C.; Rep. Phillips, Robert D.; Rep. Potter, Brandon C.; Rep. Quattrocchi, Robert J.; Rep. Sanchez, Enrique George; Rep. Serpa, Patricia A.; Rep. Voas, Brandon T.  
**Cc:** House Corporations Committee  
**Subject:** House Bill No. 7946

Dear Chair Solomon, First Vice Chair O'Brien, Second Vice Chair Caldwell, and Members of the Corporations Committee,

I have written at this time to provide you with my comments regarding House Bill 7946 – the Unlawful Confinement of a Covered Animal.

I strongly oppose the addition of item (10) to exempt egg laying hens kept for commercial egg production until January 1, 2034, and I urge you to vote accordingly.

Considering the extent of suffering that the current confinement conditions cause to egg-laying hens and the length of time that it took to get some extent improvement – not nearly enough – to how they are housed, such an extension is unconscionable!

This bill would extend the date for implementation of the minimum space required, in the 2018 H 7946 bill, from July 1, 2026, to January 1, 2034, another 7 ½ years!

In accordance with H 7456 Substitute A from 2018, the requirements of the enclosure, "In the case of egg-laying hens, "fully extending the animal's limbs" means fully spreading both wings without touching the side of an enclosure or other egg laying hens and having access to the amount of usable floor space per hen that complies with the 2016 Edition of the United Egg Producers Animal Husbandry Guidelines for U.S. Egg Laying Flocks "Guidelines for Cage-Free Egg Production."

The original deadline of 2026 was already unnecessarily long, how can the sponsors of this bill even consider extending it for another 7 ½ years? This means that egg-laying hens would be subjected to the current inhumane conditions of extreme confinement where the hens have only 1 square foot of space. This is unacceptable.

Our neighboring state of Massachusetts instituted new guidelines for egg-laying hens **back on January 1, 2022, so we are already behind in this regard.** There, shell and liquid eggs must come from hens in cage-free housing systems that meet requirements for enrichments and space. These housing systems must provide enrichments, including scratch areas, perches, nest boxes, and dust bathing areas.

In closing, I reiterate that I strongly oppose the attempt to extend the date for implementation of the minimum space required, in the 2018 H 7946 bill, from July 1, 2026, to January 1, 2034

Sincerely,

David A. Brunetti  
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Harrisville, RI 02830

