



## **Oppose H.7946: Rhode Island's Delay of Cage-Free Egg Implementation**

On behalf of myself as a Rhode Island resident, and on behalf of Farm Sanctuary's many Rhode Island members, we strongly oppose H.7946, which will defer the implementation date of Rhode Island's cage-free egg law from 2026 to 2034.

Six years ago, farmers, corporate suppliers, and animal advocates agreed that it was time for Rhode Island to end the cruel confinement of birds in battery cages. Since then:

- Ten other states finalized bans on the production and sale of eggs under conditions where hens are subjected to extreme battery cage confinement;
- Over 200 major corporations, including McDonalds, Starbucks, and Walmart, committed to a 100% cage-free egg supply; and
- All but one Rhode Island egg farmer has gone cage free (Little Rhody Farms).

The definitive, national trends towards cage-free supply chains and Rhode Island's 2018 enactment of the cage-free bill indicates our collective priority: we need cage-free egg farms now, not in a decade. With only one noncompliant egg farm to date, and with almost two years for Little Rhody Farms to retrofit their facilities, there is no reason to postpone the cage-free implementation date.

Delaying Rhode Island's cage-free law means ten more years of hens confined in cages so tight that they cannot engage in their most basic natural behaviors like perching, nesting, or spreading their wings. Ten more years of immense suffering for hens also jeopardizes the health and well-being of Rhode Island's communities, as these inhumane and stressful environments are breeding grounds for diseases like salmonella.

We urge the House Corporation Committee to oppose H.7946—the time for a cage-free Rhode Island is now.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,

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