

Lou Mansolillo

From: rodcaron <rodcaron@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 12:26 AM
To: House Corporations Committee
Subject: Bill H-7946
Attachments: 50782946_2426323044105264_3158629892778622976_o-1-2839584636.jpg; exbatteryhenchickens_lily__when_rescued_and_8_months_later_eac66e57e098ca0f13a94d37_80e5f194-642965094.jpg; Screenshot_20240325_002036_Facebook.jpg; Screenshot_20240325_001918_Facebook.jpg

I am writing to you in firm opposition to house bill H-7946, as this will result in the continued inhumane confinement of egg laying hens, also known as battery hens. Being a chicken owner myself, I know firsthand that chickens are far more intelligent and social than most people understand them to be. This bill will cause hundreds of thousands of hens to live a horrible life, confined to a tiny cage, and then to only be slaughtered at 1.5 years old, as they are "spent" from being forced to artificially lay continuously until their bodies are ravaged. I thought Rhode Island was a socially conscious state, but this goes totally against that perception. Take a look at what caged hens look like after only a year in confinement...barely able to stand, let alone walk (See attached photos). I belong to numerous battery hen rescue groups and I know what I'm talking about. How about encouraging and promoting homeowners to have their own backyard flocks - which used to be normal prior to the 1970s. Even "rural" North Smithfield, where I live, severely restricts chicken keeping, which only helps fuel the inhumane factory farming industry. Please don't let hens in Rhode Island be forgotten and please don't allow this bill to pass as written.

Rod Caron
401-935-9959
www.rodcaron.com