

October 29, 2019

Honorable Members of the Michigan House of Representatives,

On behalf of the local and national animal protection organizations listed below, and our thousands of supporters across Michigan, we respectfully ask you to oppose SB 174 in its current form.

We were initially encouraged when all sides came together and agreed to establish guidelines based on the egg industry's own cage-free standards. Stakeholders further agreed that these standards should apply to eggs sold in Michigan.

We are greatly concerned however with the *additional* six-year phaseout period, which is unnecessarily long. Because the timeline is arguably the most important facet of the bill, we regretfully must oppose SB 174 as it now stands. In addition to hurting animals, this long delay would harm Michigan families, as extensive research shows that Salmonella is more prevalent in cage egg production than in cage-free systems.

Other states with substantial egg industries are making these reforms on a faster timeline with the support of their states' egg producers. If we can still reach a consensus on a timeline and amend SB 174, we would support the measure. But if the other side is unwilling to compromise, the animal protection community respectfully encourages you to vote "no" on SB 174.

Thank you for supporting animals, Michigan families, and responsible farmers on this important matter.

Sincerely,

