

Help Prevent Animal Abuse in Washington

Please Endorse Initiative 1130

The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, The Humane Society of the United States, The ASPCA and numerous Washington-based humane societies are joining with veterinarians, food safety organizations, family farmers and environmental groups to help put an issue on the state ballot that would phase out the cruel confinement of Washington's six million egg-laying hens in cages. You can help by offering your endorsement today. There's no financial commitment – you'll simply be added to a list of supporters (see the current list at www.YesOn1130.com).

In Washington, six million egg-laying hens are crammed into cages so small and tightly-packed with other birds they can't even spread their wings, unable to engage in many basic (and important behaviors). As *TIME* magazine wrote in 2010, they are "reduced to little more than egg-laying machines."

For a hen to have a good quality of life, her behavioral needs must be met—in same way that physical needs, like food and water, must be met. This is just one of many reasons why battery cages cannot provide adequate welfare for laying hens and ought to be replaced with higher-welfare production systems, like cage-free production.

Sound science has confirmed this. For example:



- The prestigious **Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production**—a panel of experts, including Dr. Michael Blackwell (former Dean of the University of Tennessee's College of Veterinary Medicine) and a former USDA Secretary—concluded that battery cages cause "inhumane treatment" and should be phased out.
- The ***Netherlands Journal of Agricultural Science*** published a study that ranked 22 different methods of housing hens in terms of animal welfare on a zero-to-ten scale. Battery cages ranked 0.0. Typical U.S. cage-free egg production systems ranked significantly higher, around 5.9.
- **The LayWel study**—which is the most extensive scientific study into laying hen welfare ever conducted—concluded that battery cages are so inherently flawed that under no circumstances can they even provide "satisfactory welfare" for animals.

With the support of veterinarians, other states have legislated against the cage confinement of hens. This—combined with public outcry against confinement and dozens of major food companies condemning the practice—has resulted in a major movement toward housing hens in "cage-free" conditions, which provide a far better life by allowing birds more space and the ability to engage in many of the important behaviors that are denied to them in cages.

Initiative 1130 is a common-sense reform that will improve the lives of millions of animals in Washington while protecting family farmers statewide and the environment. Please help ensure that Washingtonians have a chance to vote on this important measure by endorsing today. **Visit www.YesOn1130.com today more information.**

