



YES! on 1130

stop animal cruelty

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will voting YES! on 1130 do? The measure will simply require that egg-laying hens have enough room to stand up, lie down, turn around, and extend their limbs, and that whole eggs sold in the state meet this modest requirement. This modest measure will prevent perhaps the cruelest factory farming practice in Washington: extreme confinement in tiny cages for months on end. The egg industry will move toward higher-welfare, higher food-safety cage-free systems as a result.

Who is supporting the YES! on 1130 campaign? This campaign is supported by major animal shelters in Washington along with mainstream, national organizations like the Humane Society of the United States, the ASPCA, and Farm Sanctuary. It's also backed by other credible groups such as the Center for Food Safety, Center for Science in the Public Interest, and Consumer Federation of America.

Why does Washington need this measure? In Washington, six million egg-laying hens are crammed into cages so small, the animals can barely move an inch for virtually their entire lives. This is cruel and increases the risk of food safety problems like *Salmonella*.

Have other states passed similar measures? Because of the inherent problems associated with the extreme confinement of animals on factory farms, similar laws have been passed giving more space to farm animals in Michigan, Colorado, Arizona, Oregon, Maine, Florida, and California.

What about cost? The egg industry knows that it doesn't cost much more to use cage-free housing than to use battery cages. An economic study produced for the United Egg Producers (the battery cage egg industry trade organization), shows that the added cost of production is less than a penny per egg. While it's possible that giving these animals better living conditions may increase prices by a few pennies per dozen, the hidden cost of such inhumane confinement is increased cruelty and food safety risks, and it's the animals and consumers who are paying those hidden prices.

How exactly will this measure help the environment? Factory farms are among the most serious causes of resource depletion, pollution, and global warming. This measure will help stop some of the worst abuses and help protect our precious natural resources.

Will the measure help public health? These inhumane conditions make animals more susceptible to illness. Eating the products from these operations is bad for consumers, too – the *American Journal of Epidemiology* reported that people who recently ate eggs from caged hens had about 200% the odds of being sickened by *Salmonella* compared to people who did not eat eggs from hens kept in cages. The Center for Food Safety and Consumer Federation of American endorse this ballot measure.

Why go to the ballot rather than the legislature with this issue? Our first choice is always to allow the legislature to do the right thing—to protect animals from cruel and inhumane conditions on factory farms. Animal advocates have tried to pass similar common-sense legislation, including a 2008 Washington state bill that went nowhere. Animal advocates have tried to compromise with the state’s egg producers, but the producers were unwilling to reach a reasonable agreement.

What about jobs? Washington family farmers know that better farming practices enhance food quality and safety. Increasingly, they’re supplying major retailers like Costco and Wal-Mart. Massive egg factories cut corners by confining hens in cruel and inhumane cages, driving family farmers out of business when they put profits ahead of animal welfare and our health. The YES! on 1130 also protects farm worker jobs, because according to the United Egg Producers, four times more workers are needed for cage-free egg farms than ones which confine birds in tiny cages.

Does the fact that the birds are laying eggs mean they’re happy? According to poultry expert Dr. Joy Mench, "It is now generally agreed that good productivity and health are not necessarily indicators of good welfare. Productivity is often measured at the level of the unit (e.g. number of eggs or egg mass per hen-housed), and individual animals may be in a comparatively poor state of welfare even though productivity within the unit may be high."

What about mortality rates in different egg production systems? Poultry scientist Dr. Joy Mench, a professor in the Department of Animal Science at University of California - Davis, asserts that "Mortality and disease rates can be similar under both systems if management is good."

Do people of all dietary backgrounds support this campaign? This is a common sense measure supported by meat-eaters, vegetarians and vegans alike. No matter what our diet, we can all agree that animals raised for food ought not be forced to live in cages barely larger than their own bodies for their whole lives.