

Submitter: Michael Labhard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB85

The practice of factory farming is abhorrently cruel. Confinement to the point at which suffocation is commonplace is the norm. Many animals never touch the ground or see direct sunlight. They cannot behave in natural ways: e.g. chickens cannot spread their wings or peck the ground, pigs cannot root or nest. That's just the normal unpleasantness. The extremes are truly horrible. Chickens are bred selectively and genetically modified until the birds cannot stand up and their bones cannot support their weight. Battery hens are crammed into tiny cages and to stop them doing damage when they attack each other (as they inevitably do in such unnatural conditions) their beaks and toes are cut off. Roosters are killed at birth by strangulation or asphyxiation in a bag. Pigs, highly social animals, are kept singly in cages they can't turn around in – and a number of diseases are very common because of the cramped conditions. Veal calves are deliberately and permanently squashed so that muscle growth is inhibited, and the flesh is tender. They are fed on an iron-deficient diet, so their flesh is pale.