



OFFICE OF PUBLIC WITNESS • PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
COMPASSION, PEACE AND JUSTICE MINISTRY

June 1, 2012

To Members of the United States Congress:

I write to express the support of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for H.R. 3798/ S. 3239, bills that would improve living conditions for millions of egg-laying hens.

In the PC(USA), we are committed policies that will ensure an ethical food system that not only produces enough food so that all might eat, but also requires justice and humanity in our food supply, making sure that all creatures -- from field crops that must be sustainably sown, tilled and, harvested; to animals and livestock that must be humanely treated; to farmworkers, farmers, and ranchers who must have the opportunity to live in safety and with dignity -- have the opportunity to thrive, as God intends for this good Creation.

In 1984, our General Assembly reflected on our call in Genesis:

Human stewardship is not a dominion of mastery. It is a dominion of unequivocal love for this world. It is to be exercised with respect for the integrity of natural systems and for the limits that nature places on economic growth and material consumption.

These bills represent a small step toward ensuring greater ethics in our food supply. We support H.R. 3798/ S. 3239 and urge you to pass this policy as a stand-alone bill, as an amendment to the Farm Bill, or with another appropriate vehicle.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a Christian denomination of about 2 million members and 10,000 congregations across the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Herbert Nelson, II".

The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
Director for Public Witness