



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

OFFICERS

Anita W. Coupe, Esq.
Chair of the Board
Jennifer Leaning, M.D., S.M.H.
Vice Chair of the Board
Walter J. Stewart, Esq.
Board Treasurer
Wayne Pacelle
President & CEO
Michael Markarian
Executive Vice President & COO
G. Thomas Waite III
Treasurer & CFO
Andrew N. Rowan, Ph.D.
Chief International Officer
& Chief Scientific Officer
Roger A. Kindler, Esq.
General Counsel & CLO
Janet D. Frake
Secretary

STAFF VICE PRESIDENTS

Holly Hazard
Chief Innovations Officer
John Balzar
Senior Vice President
Communications
John W. Grandy, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President
Wildlife & Habitat Protection
Heidi Prescott
Senior Vice President
Campaigns
Geoffrey L. Handy
Media and Online
Communications
Nancy Lawson
Publications &
Brand Management
Jonathan R. Lovvorn, Esq.
Animal Protection Litigation
Nancy Perry, Esq.
Government Affairs
Kelly Peterson
Field Services
Robert G. Roop, Ph.D., SPHR
Human Resources &
Education Programs
Melissa Seide Rubin, Esq.
Animal Care Centers
& Veterinary Services
John M. Snyder
Companion Animals
Martin L. Stephens, Ph.D.
Animal Research Issues

DIRECTORS

Jeffrey J. Arcinacchio
Peter A. Bender
Eric L. Bernthal, Esq.
Barbara S. Brack
Anita W. Coupe, Esq.
Neil B. Fang, Esq., C.P.A.
Jane Greenspun Gale
Paula A. Kislak, D.V.M.
Jennifer Leaning, M.D., S.M.H.
Kathleen M. Linehan, Esq.
Dwight E. Lowell II
John Mackey
William F. Mancuso
Mary I. Max
Patrick L. McDonnell
Judy Ney
Sharon Lee Patrick
Judy J. Peil
Marian G. Probst
Joshua S. Reichert, Ph.D.
Walter J. Stewart, Esq.
Andrew Weinstein
Persia White
David O. Wiebers, M.D.
Lona Williams

August 19, 2010

Kevin Vinchattle, Executive Director

Iowa Egg Council

One page via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Vinchattle,

I hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of our 11 million supporters, and consumers everywhere who are worried about egg safety, I urge you to take meaningful steps toward reducing *Salmonella* contamination in Iowa's egg supply, starting with a long-term plan to phase out the cage confinement of hens.

As you know, Iowa's egg industry was the center of another national scandal earlier this year after [investigations](#) revealed pervasive and extreme problems at the facilities of two of your state's largest egg producers. In addition to animal welfare problems, these exposés also found severe food safety concerns, such as live birds forced to live on top of mummified carcasses of birds rotting in cages.

It is the very system of cramming birds into cages – in warehouses on operations that may confine more than a million animals – that exacerbates the spread of infectious diseases like *Salmonella*. Confining more than 50 million hens in cages, as Iowa does, is a public health crisis in the making. In fact, every scientific study published in recent years on this matter shows that confining hens in cages results in significantly increased *Salmonella* risk. Specifically:

[2010](#): 7.77 times greater odds of *Salmonella* in cage operations.

[2009](#): Significantly more risk of *Salmonella* in caged flocks.

[2008](#): Up to 21.52 times greater odds of *Salmonella* in cage operations.

[2008](#): More than twice the prevalence of *Salmonella* in cage operations.

[2007](#): Up to 25 times greater odds of *Salmonella* in cage operations.

[2007](#): 3.7 times greater prevalence of *Salmonella* in cage operations.

[2006](#): More than twice the prevalence of *Salmonella* in cage operations.

The [scholarly scientific record](#) is clear: Confining birds in cages means increased *Salmonella* infection in the birds, their eggs, and the consumers of caged eggs. Burger King, Wendy's, Denny's, Subway, Sara Lee, and Hellmann's mayonnaise are just some of the dozens of major companies that now use cage-free eggs. California and Michigan have passed laws to phase out the cage confinement of hens, with California also outlawing the sale of whole caged eggs statewide by 2015. In Ohio – which is second to Iowa for U.S. egg production – the Governor and Farm Bureau recently announced their support for a moratorium on all new cage layer facilities.

For the health and well-being of consumers everywhere and Iowa's 50+ million egg-laying hens, I sincerely hope you will give serious consideration to pulling together industry leaders and urging them to phase out the confinement of hens in cages. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Wayne Pacelle, CEO

The Humane Society of the United States