



**Date:** Friday, February 5, 2021

**Time & Location:** 1:00pm, via video conference

**To:** Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment

**Submitted By:** Jennifer Molidor, Ph.D., Senior Food Campaigner, Center for Biological Diversity, (707) 888-9261

**RE:** Testimony in strong support of SB 346: Relating to Farm Animals

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for considering the testimony of the Center for Biological Diversity re: **SB 346**.

It is well-documented that industrial animal agriculture is one of the leading causes of climate change, air and water pollution, habitat degradation, and other top environmental problems. One of the most environmentally harmful practices of industrial agriculture is the use of extreme confinement, specifically hens in battery cages. I have attached the Center for Biological Diversity's factsheet detailing why these devices should be banned in order to create a more sustainable agricultural system.

In short, facilities that cram large numbers of animals into exceedingly small spaces produce enormous quantities of concentrated animal waste. Much of the waste is contaminated with antibiotic residue, heavy metals and other pollutants. These facilities typically produce far more waste than can be sustainably applied to nearby cropland. Instead, much of the waste is allowed to sit stagnant in lagoon pits, often emitting noxious gases into the air or leaching into groundwater and nearby waterways.

We know that most farmers care deeply about the environment, animal welfare and public safety. But the race-to-the-bottom spurred by corporate agribusiness over the past several decades has forced many of these farmers to adopt systems that run counter to these values. It is up to lawmakers to set modest, baseline standards—similar to what has already been done in many states—for all producers if we're going to create a sustainable agriculture system. That's exactly what SB 346 will do, and we respectfully encourage you to vote yes.

Thank you again for your consideration of this important legislation.

Jennifer Molidor, Ph.D.