

I am writing in Support of HB 5416 (Section 2) which would ban the use of Gestation Crates in Connecticut. My Family is a member of the Boulder Knoll CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) in our home town of Cheshire CT. One of the many reasons we support a CSA is we love eating local foods. There is even a new term for us "Localvores." Another reason is that we like to eat with a good conscience. If we don't follow the precedence already set by nine other states and ban these horrible confinement devices we risk having large scale farms move into our state once their inhumane practices have been banned in our neighboring states. They will eventually drive out our small farms who enjoys a rich history in our state, because they can't compete with these large scale confined feeding operations. Furthermore, families like mine who care about the source of our food will be denied the comfort of knowing "Grown in Connecticut" means "Grown humanely in Connecticut". I urge you to protect our local farms, and pass this common sense law now, before these industries move in and we have an oppositional force lobbying against them on behalf of big agriculture.

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