

Testimony Concerning Section 2 of H.B.5416
Jamila HadjSalem

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of section 2 of H.B.5416 to prohibit the use of pig gestation crates in Connecticut .

I am a registered voter in Stafford Springs, CT.

Pig gestation crates are an incredibly cruel and unnecessary confinement cell for pigs. They are so small, a pig cannot even turn around. She is forced to stay facing one direction her entire life. Bone loss, muscle weakness, as well as severe depression and insanity result from being so restrained for her whole life. This is not necessary in any way. There are other models, such as pens and group housing, that many Connecticut farmers use now. Many large corporations, such as McDonald's, Burger King and Subway, have sworn off sourcing pigs that are kept in gestation crates. Nine other states, including Rhode Island, have also placed a ban on gestation crates.

By banning gestation crates in Connecticut, we can keep the best practices going, which many farmers already adhere to. We can also keep large corporations that use gestation crates out of Connecticut, thereby giving our local farmers an edge.

Factory farmed animals already suffer immeasurably. Gestation crates are among the cruelest forms of torture we have devised for animals. There is no place for these barbaric cells in our society.

Please support a ban on gestation crates, Section 2 of H.B.5416.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Jamila HadjSalem
Stafford Springs, CT