

Dear Co-chair Kennedy, Co-chair Albis, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

Please accept this testimony in **SUPPORT SB 361 with the addition of language that would prevent gestation crates from being used in Connecticut.**

I am among the 91% of Connecticut voters who favor a ban on gestation crates.

First, I would like to thank the introducers of the four proposed bills this year that would ban gestation crates: Sen. Moore, Rep. Hennessy, Rep. Urban, Rep. Megna, Rep. Camillo, Rep. Miller, and Rep. Baram. I am disappointed that the Chairs of the Environment Committee have refused to allow any of these four bills to be granted a public hearing.

Gestation crates are one of the most inhumane features of factory farming. They have been banned in Canada, New Zealand and Australia. They have also been banned in Florida, Arizona, California, Rhode Island, Colorado, Oregon, Maine, Michigan and Ohio.

We already have intensive confinement of farm animals in Connecticut at Kofkoff Egg Farm in Bozrah. As other states continue to ban gestation crates, Connecticut is going to start looking attractive to pork mega-factories.

If the Environment Committee will not do this out of compassion for the animals, perhaps they will do it for the Environment. I am attaching a photo of a waste lagoon at a Smithfield Foods factory farm.

I cannot understand why the voters of Connecticut cannot get the Environment Committee to call for a vote on this issue.

Sincerely,

Wendy Horowitz
New Haven, CT