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To Whom It May Concern:

As an American citizen, I am writing in order to express my deep concern regarding the current welfare of farmed animals. Specifically, I would like to submit my opinions with regards to the 2007 Farm Bill.

American and foreign consumers care about how farm animals are treated in this country. However, the United States has fallen far behind many other countries in setting minimum standards for the welfare of animals on farms, in transport and at slaughter. The USDA should immediately propose the elimination of the most egregious factory farming practices, such as crates for pregnant sows and veal calves and battery cages for laying hens.

Current subsidies benefit large producers that subject animals to intensive confinement, mutilations and aversive handling techniques. The USDA should also stop providing financial assistance to producers that participate in practices shown by scientific research to be inhumane.

Eliminating factory farming practices will benefit both animal welfare and the environment. USDA should propose setting minimum space allowances that provide animals with the freedom to perform natural behaviors and also protect the environment by reducing pollution and waste disposal problems.

I thank you for your time and I look forward to your response regarding this crucial issue.

Respectfully,

Hava Dennenberg, MSW