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The Honorable Speaker Craig J. Coughlin
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New Jersey Gestation Crate and Veal Crate Ban Letter of Support (A.5236/S.3401)

I proudly support the efforts to prohibit the cruel confinement of farmed animals in New Jersey.

Gestation crates for mother pigs and veal crates for baby calves are indefensible and have no place remaining legal in the great state of New Jersey.

Similar legislation passed not once, but twice, only to be vetoed by then Governor Christie, despite overwhelming bipartisan backing by state residents and lawmakers.

Gestation crates are so cruel that ten U.S. states, Canada, and the European Union have outlawed them. Numerous corporations are prohibiting the use of gestation crates in their supply chains and demanding that producers stop cruelly confining animals. The broad support in the business community, as well as political support in other U.S. states, since the original passage of this legislation in New Jersey over six years ago, demonstrates that New Jersey is positioned to finally pass this bill into law.

Gestation crates and veal crates are inherently cruel. Both include severely restricting the animal's movement, to the point of virtual immobilization, which leads to highly stressful conditions that induces physical and psychological illness – and great suffering.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how intensive confinement of mass numbers of animals in cramped spaces can create a breeding ground for zoonotic disease. Ensuring that the cruel confinement of mother pigs and baby calves is prohibited in New Jersey is a matter of animal cruelty prevention, and a proactive step in safeguarding public safety.

Thanks to the bill sponsors, Senator Vin Gopal and Assemblyman Raj Mukherji, New Jersey has the opportunity to finally pass this commonsense animal protection bill into law.

This bill is a reasonable measure that would promote public health and protect animals from abuse.

New Jersey State Legislature and Governor Murphy – let's make 2021 the year that the garden state Bans the Crates!

Sincerely,



Stephen Wells
Executive Director
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