



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

December 21, 2018

Michigan Senate
Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Ladies and Gentlemen:

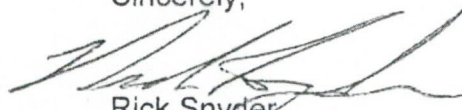
Today I vetoed Enrolled Senate Bill 660. The bill would have amended the Animal Industry Act to delay from 2020 to 2025 the implementation of enclosure size standards for egg-laying hens and to prohibit the sale of all shell eggs in Michigan after 2025 unless laying hens are housed in enclosures compliant with those standards. I recognize the critical agricultural and public health needs for safe animal housing and production standards. However, the present bill does not sufficiently connect sound science with diminished animal welfare and negative effects on public health.

The body of research into hen health and egg safety does not provide a clear indication that any one type of hen housing impacts egg safety more than another. A coalition comprised of leading animal welfare scientists, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, egg suppliers, and food service companies found that there are positive and negative impacts with each of the hen housing systems. For egg safety, the research demonstrated that hens in all housing systems were shedding salmonella at a similar rate and that the prevalence of salmonella on egg shells was very low and did not differ between housing systems.

The proposed mandate that all shell eggs sold in Michigan be produced under systems compliant with Michigan law appears to be intended to protect Michigan shell egg producers from being undercut by competition in the future. Establishing housing and production standards for non-Michigan firms selling eggs in Michigan under the pretext that traditional housing for laying hens leads to increased exposures to unsafe pathogens is incorrect.

Accordingly, I am returning this bill without signature as it would set a inappropriate precedent for the future of animal agriculture in Michigan.

Sincerely,


Rick Snyder
Governor

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SECRETARY OF STATE
ENROLLING CLERKS