

Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

I wish that every person had to feel, and think through the realities of, what it would be like if a chicken production facility was put next to their home. We did, and I can't accurately tell you the disappointment we felt in our representatives who would ask for this, our neighbors who saw only dollar signs, and in the media who seemed to refuse to report facts about the industry. That any community would open themselves up to this level of environmental destruction is astonishing to me. To make it easier for this industry to use up our water, land, clean air, and comfortable property values is next to criminal.

There are plenty of documented facts about their abuses not only to individual farmers and employees, but also to the government regulations that I won't spend time going into that. I just want to BEG you to vote "no" to lightening any restrictions for chicken facilities. You are our representatives. Please put yourself in our shoes. If it were you...would YOU want your property to be unsellable? Would you want to see the once beautiful land and all the ditches by your house be littered with feathers? Would you want to no longer be able to enjoy being outside due to the smell? Would you enjoy that your neighbors convert their beautiful acreage used up to chicken houses in hopes of making money, only to have them be vacant in time and unable to sell? My folks lived (in Texas) near large operation chicken houses, my brother ran one until it was left abandoned. In my lifetime, I have not seen a gross environment of that level again. The fear that I may be stuck living next to that in my adulthood is unnerving.

I know this vote would be a simple "No" if each person was voting it near their house. As my representative, I expect you to always vote as if it is directly affecting you.

Thank you for hearing me out.

Cherish Henning

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