

ATTACHMENT A

Comments by:

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I would like to start by addressing how having so many meetings and public hearings has affected the image of community support for the Hen Law. Many people have work, children, and prior commitments that make them unable to attend multiple times. Previous numbers showed community support, and actions will continue to; however, those people's presence and support has not diminished; they just can't attend everything. When voting on this, please remember the faces standing along the back wall in support when there weren't enough chairs.

I would like to address things I have heard in previous meetings as quickly as I can:

- 1) **Predators:** with the setups proposed in the law, predators can't get in. No food, they leave. Animals are likely to return only if they require food. Chickens will also put themselves up on bars inside the coop out of the reach of predators at night, instinctually, which adds yet another layer of protection.
- 2) **Smell:** according to Research Gate, chicken poop is 75% water. So even though chickens poop approximately 50g/day, only 25% is feces. There are more grams of added sugar in a can of Coke than chicken feces for an entire day. If for some odd reason a scent arose before the cleaning time stated in the law, agricultural lime neutralizes pH and, therefore smell, while being affordable.
- 3) **Illness:** salmonella is spread by interacting with your animals or meat without washing hands. Washing your hands after handling chickens will stop the illness. Tomato juice also kills salmonella. Most of the time it is contracted by raw food with minor symptoms like cramps.
- 4) **Bird Flu:** according to ucsf.edu, Spottis Woode, 2 cases in 2022, 3 in 2023 and 4 in 2024 -> cases, not deaths. Bird Flu can spread to humans if people come in contact with fluids or feces of infected birds without proper hand washing following exposure. Not all birds are infected, but nonetheless, wash your hands. Bird Flu causes flu-like symptoms and can be treated by using antiviral meds. H5N, bird flu, cannot be transferred from human-to-human, therefore, it cannot spread or become a pandemic.

According to De Risi, there have been thousands of outbreaks in birds, but the virus has hardly spilled over into humans. This means the biological barrier between viral DNA and human DNA is very strong. This doesn't mean it can't be passed, but it is very unlikely, hence the low case numbers. Even in birds, it is not deadly. It is only expensive in terms of profit due to reduced egg production. Corporate businesses find it more cost-effective to kill birds to prevent the spread and more profit loss than let them fight it. That's why the death rate is high.