

Shelby Young
Sumner
LD 1655

To whom it may concern,

I am a citizen of Sumner, ME who wishes to oppose LD 1655. My name is Shelby Young. I have owned chickens in the past, and intend to own them again. Starting with just two chickens given to us by a neighbor when we lived in Otisfield, and growing to own a whole laying flock of 25 chickens as well as raising a batch of 52 chickens for meat, one for every week of the year. We intend to do something similar, now that we're in Sumner, to feed our growing family of 7. The limitations to number of birds and housing size for them as proposed in the bill is a burden to the people, limiting of their freedom, and unreasonable. Honestly, it sounds like people who don't know very much about chickens wrote the bill. When raising chickens for meat it is economic and convenient to raise them in a more limited space, as they burn less calories, put on more meat, and it is simple to provide adequate housing for them that way. When raising laying hens, they often will huddle close together even when given the "appropriate" amount of space on a roosting bar or in a pen. Obviously we want animals to be raised humanely, and with appropriate consideration for their health and happiness. But people should be free to choose if they want free range chickens, and how they want to build their coop. We should especially be free to choose how many chickens we own as private citizens. We should be free to feed our families, whatever our family size may be. And we shouldn't need to apply to our municipality or county to have that number changed.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

From a deeply concerned citizen,

Shelby Young