

DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

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In favor of House Bill No. 7056

January 29, 2024

RI House Judiciary Committee

RI State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, RI 02903

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the members and board members of Defenders of Animals, Inc., I am respectfully requesting that you vote in favor of House Bill No. 7056 by Potter, Speakman, Serpa, Bennett, and Craven would prohibit force-feeding to create a force-fed poultry product nor hire another to engage in force feeding of a poultry product. Violations would be subject to a civil penalty of \$500.

By force-feeding ducks and geese food that they do not need in a manner that causes them pain, disease and often death.

The bill aligns with Rhode Island state laws that pertain to animal cruelty. When Rhode Island legislators have the opportunity to treat animals humanely by legislative action, they should do so.

“Force-feeding birds several times a day the bird has a tube inserted into its esophagus and, by means of a pneumatic or hydraulic pump, is forced to eat high-energy food it neither wants nor needs. This force-feeding can injure the bird’s esophagus and abnormally fattens the liver, which has reduced function and can painfully swell to up to ten times its normal size and become diseased. The product of this process — which many veterinarians declare inherently inhumane— is foie gras.”

Please vote in favor of H-7056.

Very sincerely yours,

Dennis Tabella

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Director