



January 31, 2024

**Re: Testimony in Support of the Passage of H.7056**

Dear House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to thank the vast majority of Rhode Island Assembly members who last year voted in favor of the ban on the production and sale of foie gras in the state of Rhode Island. Although the Senate did not consider the measure, we are writing to reaffirm the importance of this legislation and to urge the Assembly to again pass H.7056 to ban the production and sale of this unnecessary and cruel practice.

Foie gras is a luxury food made from the diseased liver of a duck or goose. When they're not confined in small cages, these birds are force-fed multiple times a day. The force-feeding causes their livers to fatten to as much as 10 times their normal, healthy size. These birds experience debilitating injuries and diseases that would kill them if they weren't slaughtered at just three months old.

Both veterinarians and the general public widely denounce foie gras as inhumane. Here at Farm Sanctuary, we have seen the consequences of this cruelty first-hand. When ducks Monet and Matisse arrived at our sanctuary, they feared humans. The sores on their bills and the cuts, scrapes, and broken feathers on their young bodies attest to lives spent in cramped cages with callous handling. Monet and Matisse evaded their dinner plate fate and got the chance to be their curious, intelligent, and social selves, but most ducks aren't so lucky.

Cruelty isn't the only problem with foie gras. The foie gras industry is also unsustainable: it wastes large amounts of water and energy and pollutes air and waterways with manure and slaughter waste. According to EPA records, foie gras operations have consistently violated environmental laws, resulting in numerous inspections and thousands of dollars in fines. By banning the production and sale of foie gras, Rhode Island will take a common-sense stance against this environmental degradation and actively reduce the state's carbon footprint.

**I implore each of you to follow the trends of over a dozen countries, the state of California, Pittsburgh, and New York City and end this merciless and ecologically harmful practice. Please vote in favor of H.7056.** Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Miranda Eisen, Esq.  
Outreach & State Policy Specialist