

RESOLUTION

Council of Graduate Students (COGS) – University of Minnesota

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Topic: Supporting the University Dining Services' Exclusive Use of Cage-Free Eggs

WHEREAS, University Dining Services (UDS) is considering the replacement of battery-cage eggs (produced by hens confined in cages) with cage-free eggs in University dining facilities;

WHEREAS, the American egg industry is increasingly being controlled by large agribusiness corporationsⁱ that tend to drive smaller farms out of business;

WHEREAS, factory egg farming has a documented detrimental effect on the environment^{ii,iii};

WHEREAS, many legislative bodies (such as European Union^{iv}) have already begun phasing out the use of battery cages in egg production, and several American dining establishments (such as McDonald's^v, Burger King and Wendy's^{vi}) have established their own guidelines for the better care of caged chickens;

BE IT RESOLVED that COGS supports the exclusive use of certified cage-free eggs by University Dining Services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that COGS encourages UDS to increase cooperation with small, local, cage-free farmers in an effort to provide graduate students with food choices on campus while simultaneously supporting local farms.

i United Egg Producers, General US Stats, http://www.unitedegg.org/useggindustry_generalstats.aspx

ii World Watch Institute. Meat: Now It's Not Personal. World Watch. 2004 July/Aug

iii F.A.O., United Nations. Livestock & the Environment. 1996

iv EU bans battery hen cages, BBC News. 1999 Jan. 28. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/264607.stm>

v M. Kaufman, McDonald's Taking Steps To Improve Care of Hens. Washington Post. 2000 Aug 23

vi D. Stoneman. The big restaurant chains raise the bar on animal handling. Better Farming, 2002 Feb. http://www.betterfarming.com/archive/cov_feb02.htm