



Bipartisan ‘Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act’ introduced

By Stewart Doan

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Washington, March 4 – Two U.S. representatives from Southern California are sponsoring legislation that would force federal agencies to purchase meat only from sources that raised the animals free from cruelty and abuse.

Democrat Diane Watson and Republican Elton Gallegly introduced the Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act to set a higher standard for food purchased by the federal government.

Their bill, H.R. 4733, requires that food purchased for federal programs come from animals raised with enough room to stand up, lie down, turn around and stretch their limbs.

“Americans are increasingly demanding that we move away from abusive confinement in tiny cages on factory farms,” Watson said. “The federal government has a responsibility to help lead the way on this important issue.”

The federal government spends more than \$1 billion annually purchasing animal products for a variety of programs and agencies, including the National School Lunch Program, the Armed Services and the Bureau of Prisons.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation’s largest animal protection organization, praised the proposal and encouraged Congress to act swiftly to pass the bill.

“We are grateful to Representatives Watson and Gallegly for introducing this important legislation, which would meaningfully improve the lives of millions of farm animals being raised for the federal government,” commented Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the 11 million-member HSUS.

The bill was referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and the House Agriculture Committee.

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