



September 10, 2026

Susan Morris
Chief Executive Officer
Albertsons Companies, Inc.

Dear Ms. Morris,

I'm writing on behalf of PETA to alert you right away to an urgent animal welfare and consumer deception issue in your egg supply chain. Hilliker's Ranch Fresh Eggs (Hilliker's), whose products are sold at select Albertsons locations, markets itself as a "cage-free" egg producer. However, recent eyewitness findings show that the reality bears no resemblance to what consumers expect when they buy eggs marketed as "cage-free."

Please take a moment to watch [this video](#). The eyewitness documented the following:

- At least 10,000 hens were confined in each of three sheds. In one shed, the floor was barely visible beneath the birds, and a worker could not open a gate without repeatedly striking hens. Each bird was allotted only approximately 1.15 to 1.53 square feet of space.
- Severely stressed hens fought with one another, a condition that a worker described as "normal."
- Hens were observed panting in the heat, a sign of distress due to exceeding their normal body temperature.
- The birds' sensitive beaks had been cut or burned off, a painful mutilation performed to reduce injuries caused by birds pecking one another in severely crowded conditions.
- The sheds were filled with the overpowering stench of accumulated waste, and dense dust filled the air.

At best, "cage-free" **does surprisingly little to improve the welfare of hens and, in some cases, causes more suffering**, while duping conscientious consumers into paying higher prices. PETA's [white paper](#) reveals that pecking, fighting, and cannibalism are more common with cage-free hens. Some 85% to 97% of cage-free hens suffer painful keel-bone fractures and impaired mobility. Birds also commonly experience respiratory disease and skin lesions caused by ammonia-laden dust and litter saturated with feces.

We ask that you promptly examine your relationship with Hilliker's and, more broadly, stop selling eggs with the misleading "cage-free" claim. This eyewitness report demonstrates that consumers cannot rely on "cage-free" labeling as an indicator of better animal welfare.

Unless Albertsons conducts unannounced inspections of suppliers accompanied by a veterinarian or qualified avian welfare expert, it has no way to determine whether animal welfare claims are truthful and reflect conditions on the ground. Replacing one problematic supplier with another supplier that

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hasn't been inspected merely transfers cruelty in your supply chain from one farm to another, rather than reducing it. Ultimately, the only way to eliminate these risks entirely is to sell exclusively vegan eggs such as [JUST Egg](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Reiman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Tracy Reiman
President