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Minnesota House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee
Chair Samantha Vang

March 11, 2024

Re: Opposition to HF 4655

Subject: Urgent Matter Regarding HF 4655 Bird Hatching Ban in Schools

Dear Chair Vang and Committee Members,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Alex Fredin, and I am a concerned constituent residing in Arlington, MN, Sibley County, I am writing to bring your attention to negative effects HF 4655 will have to the future generations of Minnesotans.

As a graduate of Sibley East High School in 2007, my journey into the wonders of nature began when our school initiated a bird hatching program. Initially, I viewed it as just another school project, but little did I know that it would open my eyes to the intricate and fascinating aspects of the natural world. The program encouraged a direct connection to wildlife. Seeing the chicks grow, feather by feather, brought wildlife into our classroom and, in turn, brought us closer to the natural world outside the school walls. Bird hatching sparked an interest in the broader ecosystem. Understanding the role of birds in maintaining ecological balance and contributing to biodiversity became a focal point of my newfound appreciation for nature. Growing up with a fascination for waterfowl, I marveled at their elegance and unique behaviors. However, it was only when I delved deeper into understanding their ecological significance that I began to grasp the profound impact they have on our natural environment. This program affects me as this connection turned me into the waterfowl conservationist and aviculturist I am today. Waterfowl, with their migratory patterns and diverse habitats, play a crucial role in maintaining the balance of ecosystems. They contribute to seed dispersal, control insect populations, and even influence vegetation dynamics. Realizing the intricate web of connections between waterfowl and the environment broadened my perspective on the importance of preserving their habitats and ensuring their well-being.

This newfound understanding naturally led me to explore aviculture—the practice of keeping and breeding birds, including waterfowl, in captivity. Aviculture has become more than a hobby; it is a conscious effort to contribute positively to the well-being of these magnificent creatures. Engaging in aviculture allows me to observe and appreciate the complexities of waterfowl behavior up close, fostering a deeper connection with the avian world. The responsibilities that come with aviculture, from

providing suitable environments to ensuring proper nutrition and healthcare, have not only deepened my knowledge but also instilled a sense of stewardship for these creatures. It is a commitment to conservation and preservation, echoing the importance of protecting their natural habitats in the broader context of environmental conservation. As I navigate this enriching journey into aviculture, I find myself inspired to share my experiences and knowledge with others. Whether through educational initiatives or collaborative efforts with like-minded enthusiasts, my goal is to contribute to the broader conversation about the significance of waterfowl and aviculture in our ever-changing world. Currently the journey my wife and I have embarked upon, one that combines our passion for waterfowl with a commitment to conservation and education. Over the years, our shared enthusiasm for these magnificent creatures has evolved into a purposeful endeavor. Currently, we are proud caregivers to multiple species of wild and endangered waterfowl, which we raise in captivity. Our primary goal is to contribute to the well-being of these species, ensuring their preservation and creating a platform for educational outreach. By nurturing and raising these waterfowl in a controlled environment, we aim to play a part in the conservation efforts for these endangered species. Our commitment goes beyond the confines of our property, extending to a broader mission of fostering awareness and understanding. We firmly believe that hands-on experiences with these remarkable birds can ignite a spark of curiosity and appreciation for wildlife in the hearts of both children and adults.

Classroom hatching programs can also be integrated into lessons about agriculture, introducing students to fundamental concepts such as breeding, reproduction, and genetic diversity. This knowledge is foundational for understanding how these processes impact food production and sustainability. Connecting hatching programs to broader agricultural themes allows students to grasp the concept of "seed to table." They learn about the interconnected processes involved in growing food, raising animals, and bringing agricultural products to market. Exposure to agricultural concepts through hatching programs may inspire students to consider careers in agriculture, animal science, veterinary medicine, or related fields. It broadens their awareness of the diverse opportunities within the agricultural sector.

The journey begins with the miracle of life unfolding before the eyes of eager students. Witnessing the stages of development, from incubation to hatching and beyond, instills a sense of wonder and curiosity. This hands-on experience serves as an entry point into the intricate web of nature, sparking a lifelong interest in the environment, wildlife, and the agricultural practices that sustain both. Moreover, hatching birds in the classroom provides a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. Students not only learn about the life cycle of birds but also develop a deeper understanding of the interdependence of living organisms, the importance of biodiversity, and the role of agriculture in sustaining both human and animal life. As individuals who have embarked on this journey, we bear witness to the transformative power of experiential learning. It is my hope that more educators, schools, and communities will embrace and expand these programs, offering future generations the chance to connect with our natural world and gain a profound appreciation for the essential role of agriculture in our lives. Through initiatives like these, we have the potential to cultivate a new generation of environmentally conscious and agriculture-savvy individuals. By fostering a love for nature and an understanding of sustainable agricultural practices, we can equip future leaders with the knowledge and passion needed to address the environmental challenges our world faces.

In closing, I extend my gratitude for the opportunities that hatching birds in the classroom has afforded me. Reflecting on my experiences, it's clear to me that the act of hatching birds in a classroom environment can be a powerful catalyst for fostering a love for nature, aviculture and agriculture. The impact is far-reaching, influencing not only the students involved but also the community at large. I believe that expanding and promoting such initiatives can pave the way for a generation of like-minded individuals who are deeply connected to the environment and understand the importance of agriculture in sustaining our planet I am hopeful that, together, we can continue to sow the seeds of curiosity and appreciation for the natural world, ensuring a legacy of stewardship for generations to come

Thank you Chairman Vang and Members of the Committee I hope my reflection will show how the benefits far out weigh any negatives that would come if HF 4655 comes to fruition. I urge you to dismiss this bill for the merits I listed above for the future of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Alex Fredin


COMMAND
WORKSPACE
SEQUENCE
BUG
DEBUGGING
RUN / GO
EVENT
LOOP
CONDITIONALS
DECOMPOSE
BINARY
Wood Ducks
WHAT IS A WOOD DUCK
DIET
HABITAT


MINNESOTA CAVITY NESTING WATERFOWL
THANKS TO THE KIDS FOR TAKING AN INTEREST IN WATERFOWL IN MINNESOTA.


SOTA CAVITY NESTING
WATERFOWL
HABITAT