



Dear Mariano's and Kroger Leadership,

We, the undersigned artists, authors, creators, chefs, restaurateurs, doctors, and public figures who proudly represent the vibrant communities of Chicago, write to you today with an urgent request regarding your company's cage-free commitment.

As public figures who connect with thousands of neighbors every day, we take pride in celebrating what makes our city special. For Chicagoans, Mariano's has long been a trusted neighborhood staple, woven deeply into our daily lives. When Kroger publicly pledged to transition to a 100% cage-free egg supply chain by 2025, our city welcomed it as a true sign of corporate responsibility from a brand we choose to support.

Your company has since broken that commitment and continues to profit from extreme cage cruelty, hiding this harsh reality behind promises of community-mindedness and premium standards. Our community trusted that image, and now caged hens and our neighbors are left to pay the price for this failure.

Millions of hens are now left to suffer in filthy, cramped wire cages where they cannot spread their wings or walk more than a few steps. Backtracking on this pledge not only prolongs agonizing animal suffering, but it also directly defies the trust of the Chicago community members who built your brand.

As voices for our communities, we believe that transparency and accountability matter. Chicagoans deserve integrity, and we expect the businesses that operate within our neighborhoods to respect their consumers and keep their word.

As a company with a long history in Chicago, you have the power to champion corporate responsibility and animal welfare in the region. We implore you to do this by prioritizing your cage-free commitment and showing your customers that corporate responsibility is a core value of your brand.

Sincerely,

Tee Sanders

*NAACP Image
Award-Winning Creator &
Entertainer*

Nemanja Golubovic

*Award-Winning
Restaurateur &
Founder/CEO, Kale My
Name*

Joanne Molinaro

*NYT Bestselling Author
& James Beard
Award-Winning Creator*

Anthony Molinaro

*Award-Winning Concert
Pianist, Composer &
Educator*

Chef Katie Simmons

*Plant-Based Culinary
Expert & Founder,
Plants-Rule*

Jonny Morelli

*Health Coach, Content
Creator & Public Speaker*

Dr. Kiarra King

*FACOG Board-Certified
OB/GYN, Media
Personality, & Creator*

Dr. Paula

Freedman-Diamond
*Licensed Clinical
Psychologist & Founder,
HumanKind Psych*

Alice Trellakis

*Fitness & Lifestyle
Content Creator*

Natalie Rigazio Slater

*Content Creator &
Author, Bake and Destroy*