

TESTIMONY PRESENTED to ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE- March 9, 2009

By Susan Kautz RN, 3 Beckwith Rd., Haddam, Ct 06438

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my views on the following bills.

I strongly urge you to SUPPORT An ACT CONCERNING LEGHOLD TRAPS. (SB 994). Leghold/body crushing traps are cruel, inhumane and cause many intended and unintended animals horrible pain and suffering. I hope that your vote will be part of the solution to help end this barbaric tradition of the use of leghold traps. I would like to see this society evolving towards a more altruistic position regarding people, animals and environment and you can help make this happen.

I strongly urge you to SUPPORT The HUMANE TREATMENT of ELEPHANTS. (HB 6555). I believe that elephants used in circuses and traveling shows have been living a life of Hell due to the frequent abusive treatment towards them. Many have endured repeated abuse by their handlers, trainers and keepers and are made to perform ridiculous stunts and routines with the use of devices that pierce, shock, pull, cut, pinch, burn their skin and restrain them on short chains so that spectators can see a wild animal do tricks. What century are we living in? It is time to end this abuse. A few years ago I actually bought a ticket (something I am opposed to) to the circus here in Hartford to see for myself what the elephants are made to do. Before the performance the public was invited to visit with the animals. The elephants were not chained at this time and they appeared happy enough and well treated. I left the area, then decided to go back to see them again and apparently visiting hours were over. I had gone in an unlocked door and saw that 2 of the elephants legs had been chained. The handler was not happy I saw that. They want the public to think they are treated well, however behind the scenes they are not! Please consider the absolute stress and helplessness these beautiful creatures must endure to be part of the show.

In addition I ask you to please SUPPORT SB 856 (POSTING OF ORIGIN OF PUPPIES SOLD IN RETAIL), and SUPPORT HB 6552 (An ACT BANNING THE SALE OR USE OF COMPUTER SOFTWARE OR SERVICES TO REMOTELY OPERATE WEAPONS TO HUNT ANIMALS AND BIRDS). This is a heinous crime!!! I can't imagine such horrific abuse- can you? I URGE you to SUPPORT.

I urge you to OPPOSE HB 6553 (An ACT CONCERNING SUNDAY HUNTING).

I hope you will consider my position on these bills and support my requests. THANK YOU for your time and the opportunity for me to testify.