



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, members of the Environment Committee, my name is F. Philip Prelli. Thank you for the opportunity to briefly comment before you today on the following bills pSB p262; pSB 497; pSB 743; pHB 5798 and pHB 5807. These are all *proposed* bills, and as such, the language is vague, general and leads to much speculation as to the proponent's intent.

pSB262: An Act Permitting the Importation of Reindeer

The reason that current regulations prohibit the importation of cervidae into the state is to prevent the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in our captive and wild deer population. CWD is a disease in cervidae that is similar to Mad Cow Disease in cattle and Scrapie in sheep. Though the science is still out on the ability of reindeer to carry and transmit the disease, the same was thought for moose but CWD has been discovered in the moose population. Therefore, with the similarities with molecular structure of reindeer and other deer, we should be reluctant to allow them to be imported at this time.

pSB497: An Act Concerning Municipal Advertising Costs and Pet Adoptions

The Department would support this legislation as long as it is an additional fee and does not decrease the monies the Animal Population Control Fund receives. This is a very successful program which is self sufficient and we would not want to have to shut down the program, as was necessary in the past, due to insufficient funds.

pSB743: An Act Concerning the Liability for Damage Caused by a Dog

The Department does not feel that this bill is necessary as there is already protection for damage to personal property, which dogs and companion animals are, in the current statute. Domestic animals are covered in other sections of the statutes.

pHB5798: An Act Prohibiting the Unreasonable Confinement and Tethering of Dogs

The Department feels that current cruelty and neglect statutes cover this situation and the Bill is not necessary. How long should a dog be allowed to be outside? The answer depends on the breed and the make up of the dog. The enforcement of such a bill would be very time consuming and the Department does not have the staff or money to fully enforce.