



Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
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February 22, 2011

Testimony in Opposition to:

Committee Bill 5399 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EUTHANIZING OF ANIMALS BY THE CONNECTICUT HUMANE SOCIETY

Submitted by: Donald Tuller, President, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a statewide nonprofit membership organization of over 5,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and Members of the Environment Committee:

I urge you to vote against Committee Bill 5399. I understand that no one likes the fact that the Connecticut Humane Society is forced to euthanize animals, but to require them to hire the services of a licensed veterinarian, is to unnecessarily raise their costs of operation. You might be wondering why a farm organization is weighing in on this. Here's why, if you buy into this, how long before you are writing unnecessary, expensive requirements for farmers about how they take care of their ailing animals. Trained people give injections to animals and people. People give themselves injections of insulin. Are you going to require that only MD's be allowed to give injections to people? If you raise the cost of operation of the Connecticut Humane Society, and they can't take in as many unwanted pets, the unintended consequences may be more abandoned pets. We need only look at the banning of horse slaughter facilities in the United States a few years ago. It is now common to hear about abandoned or starved horses. Connecticut's horse rescue facilities are overflowing. Some horse owners can't afford to keep them anymore, and there is nowhere to get rid of the unwanted horses. Many have been turned out onto public lands out west, to starve and be killed by predators. Some people thought that they were doing a good thing for horses. It created a much worse situation. Committee Bill 5399 also has the possibility of negative, unintended consequences. Therefore, I urge you to vote against Committee Bill 5399 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EUTHANIZING OF ANIMALS BY THE CONNECTICUT HUMANE SOCIETY.