

I would like to submit the following testimony with regard to the following animal protection bills:

HB 5416 (Section 2): Ban on Gestation Crates: Please support this bill and ban the use of gestation crates for pregnant sows. This extreme confinement is inhumane and causes severe physical and mental suffering. It is abuse and must be banned. This ban would be widely supported by CT voters and would help promote best practices that our local sustainable farmers already follow. Additionally it would protect CT's family farmers by preventing large scale factory farms from coming to CT.

SB 445: The Puppy Mill Bill: Please support this Puppy Mill Bill but with additional amendments to include requirements that 1.) all newly licensed pet shops shall not sell commercially-bred dogs AND 2.) for current pet shops, a phase out of the sale of commercially bred dogs. This additional inclusion is vital to combat the puppy mill trade. There is an abundance of suffering at these puppy mills where dogs live in too small cages stacked on top of each other, get no exercise or human interaction and are bred non-stop. The people who purchase puppies from pet stores are a very small minority. As a volunteer at my town's animal shelter, I see first hand the animal overpopulation problem we have in CT. Shelters and rescues could keep pet stores well stocked with puppies and dogs. It is heartbreaking to think that we allow--and finance--the euthanasia of dogs in CT shelters (2,700 in FY 2012 for CT municipal shelters) and at the same time allow thousands of dogs to suffer in inhumane puppy mills where they are bred non-stop to bring more into the world. It's a vicious cycle that must be stopped.

HB 5080: An Act Concerning Deer Management Programs on Private Property and Authorizing Bow and Arrow Hunting on Private Property on Sundays: Please oppose this bill. 1% of CT residents hunt. Why not let the other 99% enjoy a day of peace and allow them to hike, walk their dog and otherwise enjoy the outdoors without having to worry about getting impaled by the errant bow. Not to mention, bow hunting is one of the most inhumane, barbaric forms of hunting and has the highest crippling rate. This is not an effective means of deer population control and it endangers the public safety.

Submitted by:

Debby McKeown
19 Patrick Drive
Seymour, CT 06483