OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

TONI N. HARP

50th Mayor of New Haven Connecticut

March 17, 2014

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

I am offering testimony on **SB 445: An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations of the Task Force on the Sale of Cats and Dogs from Inhumane Origins at Connecticut Pet Shops.** As a pet owner, I commend the task force for their hard work and sensible recommendations.

Most of the recommendations will do much to protect dogs and cats. I do have several concerns I would like to mention:

1. I agree with the recommendation on direct violations of USDA regulations; I disagree with the indirect requirement. Indirect violations involving veterinary care and improper handling would be a reasonable compromise instead of an effort to stop good breeders from serving responsible pet stores in CT.
2. Maintain the current consumer protections such as the state's Puppy Lemon Law.
3. Protect responsible pet stores and their employees.

I would like to take a few minutes to tell you about Safari Stan's Pet Shop in New Haven. I am a weekly shopper there. If you are in the area and own a pet, I recommend you stop in. The pets are beautifully groomed and each living space is just the right size, and meticulous; breeders are listed so consumers can do their own checking.

Safari Stan's makes sure that a potential pet owner is the "right" fit for the animal. For example, they will not place a large dog that needs lots of room with someone who lives in a small apartment. The staff is very helpful whether you are interested in purchasing a pet, food for your pet, or a toy.

This pet store is an asset to the community, its staff and, of course, all of its pets. I am certain you will find similar stores in your districts. I ask that you incorporate the Task Force's recommendations while considering my comments.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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