

March 17, 2014

**Testimony of
Neil and Annie Hornish
In Support of HB5416,
In Support with Change of SB445,
In Opposition of HB5080**

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our **Support of HB5416**, “An Act Establishing a Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council and Prohibiting the Use of Certain Enclosures for Gestating Sows”. While we do not believe the advisory council is necessary, we do strongly support the banning of gestation crates. Only 2’ x 7’ in size, these crates prohibit the movement of pregnant sows, creating severe physical and mental trauma for these intelligent animals. Nine other states have already passed this ban, and Connecticut should be the tenth. As far as can be determined, gestation crates are not currently used in Connecticut. Banning the crates would therefore not only have no impact to the existing hog farms utilizing best practices within the state, and would in fact protect Connecticut farmers from competition of factory farms that may wish to relocate within the state.

We would also like to express our **Support with Change to SB445**, “An Act Concerning Certain Recommendations of the Task Force of the Sale of Cats and Dogs from Inhumane Origins at Connecticut Pet Shops”. This bill as written would not effectively curtail the importation of animals from puppy mills into stores that sell cats and dogs within Connecticut. We recommend the bill be modified to prohibit the sale of commercially-bred dogs in new pet shops, and also phase out the sale of commercially-bred dogs in the 16 Connecticut pet shops that still sell them.

Finally, we would like to express out **Opposition to HB5080**, “An Act Concerning Deer Management Programs on Private Property and Authorizing Bow and Arrow Hunting on Private Property on Sundays”. Bow hunting is a particularly inhumane form of hunting with a very high crippling rate. Additional hunting will not effectively control the deer population as it will promote population “bounce-back” by creating artificial conditions in which the remaining deer have access to more food.

Thank you,

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