

Dear Honorable Officials, Senator Boucher and Representative Frey,

Please support H.B. 5416 (Section 2) Ban on Gestation Crates. Gestation crates are a disturbing and cruel practice that producers are forced into when under financial pressure to get big or get out. Sows or mother pigs spend their entire lives in cages so small they can never turn around. Nine others states, the European Union and Canada have all banned gestation crates and a 2013 poll showed 91% of Connecticut voters support a ban on gestation crates.

Keep gestation crates out of Connecticut. In a nation quickly losing farmers, CT added 1,000 new farms in recent years. At the 2014 Northeast Organic Farming Association Connecticut conference fifty-six concerned citizens, organizations and farms signed on to support a gestation crate ban. Protect our small family farms using responsible practices and the integrity of the CT Grown Brand by voting in support of the Gestation Crate Ban.

Please oppose H.B. 5080 Sunday Bow Hunting. Expanding recreational privileges of hunters unfairly diminishes opportunities for other nature-goers. Wildlife watchers, hikers, mountain bikers, dog walkers, and horseback riders outnumber hunters in Connecticut 29 to 1 and outspend hunters 7 to 1 contributing \$500 million annually to the state's economy. A vote opposing Sunday bow hunting best represents the interests of Connecticut residents. Only 1% of Connecticut residents hunt. The overwhelming majority do not hunt. Opposing this bill would not limit existing privileges hunters already receive. Let there be at least one day a week during hunting season when all people can safely use the outdoors without threat from bullets or arrows.

Recreational bow hunting on Sundays **will not** resolve the issues deer pose on forest regeneration and as a disease vector. The Center for Disease Control **does not** recommend deer hunting as a form of Lyme disease control because it's ineffective at protecting public health. Sunday bow hunting would be a cruel means to unsuccessfully control deer populations. Bow hunters often fail to deliver a fatal shot causing crippled animals to wander onto private and public properties that did not consent to hunting. Non-hunting nature-goers are left to find injured animals languishing through a slow and painful death.

Please support S.B. 445 the "Puppy Mill Bill" with additional recommendations: (1) all new pet ships in CT shall not sell commercially-bred dogs; and (2) current pet ships will phase-out the sale of commercially-bred dogs. Over 100 CT pets shops have built successful businesses around adopting-out rescued dogs, while an obstinate 16 in CT continue to sell dogs bred in cruel and filthy puppy mill conditions. The proposed phase-out would give the small fraction of pet shops that continue to sell commercially-bred dogs 5 years to transition to a humane model (i.e., the sale/adoption of dogs from public shelters and non-profit rescue groups). In Ridgefield, ROAR and PetValu are a great example of an animal rescue and a pet shop working cooperatively to re-home abandoned dogs.

This ban would not impact *responsible breeders* in Connecticut. It is meant to address thousands of out-of-state commercial breeders using inhumane practice from selling their "product" in CT. Puppy mills profit, while tax payers pay the price. The health of commercially-bred dogs is in such poor condition, owners quickly dump them at shelters. In FY 2012, CT Animal Population Control Program (APCP) spent \$733,199 to reduce dog and cat overpopulation and euthanized 2,700 animals. Take the lead on this issue like the City of Chicago has done and support the Puppy Mill Bill with additional recommendations.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Scavelli

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