

I thank the Task Force for the time they put into reviewing the issues presented by SB445, the Puppy Mill Bill. While these recommendations are a very good beginning, it is important that the Environmental Committee go further and phase out the importation of commercially bred dogs and cats. The truth is CT cannot regulate out of state breeders. Humane treatment in these facilities is the rare exception and not the norm. The USDA standards, even when followed, results in dogs living in tiny crates their whole lives getting only basic care and little to no human interaction. These are companion animals yet they are treated as commodities. The Puppy Mill lobby is powerful and cares only about profits. Any breeder, broker or pet store that truly cared about the dogs and cats would not raise them in warehouses or sell to anyone who can pay. Reputable breeders care about the lifelong health and happiness of their puppies and kittens and make sure prospective families are suitable not only for that breed but for that individual. The breeding stock are treated like the valued pets that they are. That is not the case in pet shops. You have the chance to make a difference. Please adopt the Task Force's recommendations but add the elimination/phase-out of the sale of commercially bred dogs and cats in CT.

Sincerely,  
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Sent from my iPad