

**50 Cedarcroft Drive  
Madison, CT 06443**

The Hon. Senator Ted Kennedy, Jr., Co-Chair  
The Hon. Representative James Albis, Co-Chair  
Connecticut General Assembly – Environment Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3200  
Hartford, CT 06106

March 20, 2015

Dear Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis and Members of the Committee:

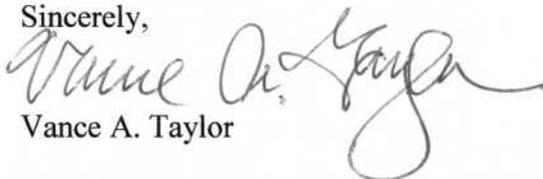
I am Vance Taylor, a life-long resident of Connecticut, a commercial real estate agent, and an ordained pastor in the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. Today, however, I am providing testimony to your Committee in support of HB 5707 simply as a concerned citizen who cares for all of God's creation, and as someone together with my wife who has rescued four dogs over the past eight years, the most recent of which is now the official reading dog at Jeffrey Elementary School in Madison where my wife teaches first grade.

Many reasonable options seem to be available in lieu of laboratory testing of animals, and while this is not the subject of HB 5707, I do ask your Committee to further examine this much larger issue. For the moment, however, I simply request that so long as this questionable practice continues here in Connecticut in taxpayer-assisted laboratories, please provide a caring and compassionate alternative to the euthanizing of these dogs and cats by mandating that laboratories cooperate with animal rescue organizations in placement of these living creatures in loving homes. Right now, that placement decision on the part of laboratories is totally discretionary, and the enactment of HB 5707 would give these innocent, and as I see it often abused animals a chance for a new life. I've seen first-hand the successes of Connecticut rescue organizations partnering with pet stores, veterinarians and others in the community to make a difference through adoption, and I'm quite certain the same care and concern would be demonstrated on behalf of former laboratory animals.

Roughly a month from today, we'll be recognizing Earth Day, with its ongoing appeal for us to be good caretakers and caregivers of all that's been entrusted to us. What better demonstration of the principles of Earth Day than to take a first step this day in preserving the lives of countless cats and dogs previously used as laboratory animals. I therefore urge your favorable recommendation of this "Beagle Freedom Bill", and your continuing support to insure passage in the full Senate and House.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

  
Vance A. Taylor