

March 20, 2015

Re:

SUPPORT SB 361 (increases penalties for animal cruelty) with the addition of language that would prevent gestation crates from being used in CT

Additionally,

OPPOSE HB 6034, Sunday hunting, and

SUPPORT HB 5707, "Beagle Freedom Bill", outdoor sheltering for dogs

Dear Co-chair Kennedy, Co-chair Albis, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

Please accept this testimony in *support of SB 361* with the addition of language preventing gestation crates from being used in CT.

The Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production has concluded that confinement systems such as gestation crates and battery cages (which are used on KofKoff Egg farms here in CT) are inherently cruel, and I agree. I hope to see these systems banned for two reasons. First, I want to make sure that no further industrial agriculture can come to CT that uses these cruel confinement systems, and I want better treatment for the birds on KofKoff Farm. Second, I want to show solidarity with the EU and with the nine states that have already enacted a similar ban, showing that such cruel treatment of animals is unacceptable.

Additionally, I *oppose* Sunday hunting (HB 6034), because the high crippling rate of bow hunting is inhumane, and I *support* the Beagle Freedom Bill HB 5707, which would provide adoption opportunities for dogs and cats who are tested on.

With this testimony, I represent my own voice as well as the voices of the hundreds of students and community members of the Yale Animal Welfare Alliance, of which I am president.

Thank you for your service,

Robert Yaman

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