

March 18, 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 6043, 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,

I am writing to ask that you accept my testimony in **support of SB361** to increase penalties for animal cruelty with the addition of language that would prevent gestation crates from being used in our state of Connecticut.

I was horrified when I learned that the intensive confinement of farm animals has already invaded Connecticut at KofKoff Egg Farm where 4.7 million birds are confined to battery cages! How can this be justified? The thought of sentient animals of beauty and intelligence being denied their inherent right to express normal behavior patterns and to confine them so cruelly is beyond the pale. I am dreadfully disappointed in those who allowed this travesty in our state. We know more about animals than ever and each behavior and intelligence test that animal scientists perform consistently shows that animals feel pain, feel emotions, have intelligence, and have a will to live. Animal research has come a long way and the average voter is learning more and more about the practices of factory farming and what they really are as opposed to real “farming.” These gestation crates are an abomination, nothing less than torture devices.

I support increasing the penalties for malicious and intentional animal cruelty, and ask that you add language to SB 361 that would prevent gestation crates from coming to Connecticut. I don’t want to see further expansion of these types of cruel farming practices and neither do 91% of the voters in Connecticut who want a ban on gestation crates. I will be following this matter very closely.

To be clear: I am requesting a ban on gestation crates, not a livestock advisory council (or any other type of diversionary nonsense).

In other states, these councils have been created to actively thwart efforts to protect farm animals from abuse. In 2014, the proposed council (HB 5416) was heavily biased, with only 1 of 15 members representing animal welfare interests as its primary focus. Suggestions that were offered to allow for a balanced council makeup were rejected. This is a classic case of the fox in the henhouse!

Such suggestions included independent veterinarians, certified humane farmers, and CT-NOFA (Northeast Organic Farming Association). Again, polling shows 91% of

Connecticut voters want legislation to prevent gestation crate use (2013 poll)--not a costly bureaucratic roadblock.

The Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production, a project of The Pew Charitable Trusts and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, concluded in its report (which can be found at [www.ncifap.org](http://www.ncifap.org)) that "...After reviewing the literature, visiting production facilities, and listening to producers themselves, the Commission believes that the most intensive confinement systems, such as restrictive veal crates, hog gestation pens, restrictive farrowing crates, and battery cages for poultry, all prevent the animal from a normal range of movement and constitute inhumane treatment." In this report, the Commission also included a recommendation to phase out the most intensive and inhumane production practices to reduce risks to public health and improve animal well-being; these practices included gestation crates, battery cages, veal crates, and other cruel practices.

The legislative proposal is simple: Amend the cruelty statutes (Title 53, Chapter 945) in order to "prohibit confinement of sows during gestation in a manner that prevents them from turning around freely, lying down, standing up, or fully extending their limbs." Please use language as provided in the 2015 testimony from The Humane Society of the United States' Connecticut State Director Annie Hornish.

Additionally, **I OPPOSE Sunday hunting (HB 6034)**. It seems as if ordinary citizens have to be concerned about violence these days as we navigate life in the city, shopping malls, movie theatres and more. To have to be concerned about Sunday hunting encroaching on a day of peace both traditionally and historically is just wrong. I want my one day of peace when I can go on my hikes and bird watch in peace without worrying about someone hurting me and my loved ones because he or she chooses to kill animals for sport of all things. Bow hunting in particular is an especially cruel method of hunting along with trapping, which is a passive, ghastly way to maim and kill animals. Enough is enough. Those of us who do not choose to hurt other species deserve our one-day of peace and safety from those carrying weapons.

**Further, I SUPPORT HB 5707**, which would provide adoption opportunities for dogs and cats used in certain experiments and which would define outdoor sheltering standards for dogs.

I thank you in advance for your consideration on these matters.

Yours truly,

**Jane and Anthony Ciarlone  
63 Cedar Knolls Drive  
Branford, Ct. 06405**