

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 that would prevent gestation crates from being used in Connecticut.**

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. The intensive confinement of farm animals is already here in Connecticut – chickens confined in tiny cages at KofKoff Egg Farms in eastern CT -- and I don't want to see further expansion of these types of cruel and unsustainable farming practices.

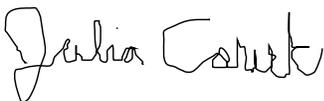
Nine states (including RI and ME) and the European Union have already passed legislation to outlaw gestation crates. Why should CT lag behind, rather than be a leader on this issue? The Committee Chairs have said repeatedly that if gestation crates came to Connecticut, they would ban them. However, when asked to ban battery cages this year (HB 5688), which ARE here in Connecticut, the Chairs refused. Our laws should reflect our values. The legislature should listen to the 91% of CT voters who want a ban on gestation crates. I will be following this matter closely.

Additionally, I **OPPOSE Sunday hunting (HB 6034)**, because all animals (including humans) deserve one day of peace in the woods, and because bow hunting has a high crippling rate, making it extremely inhumane.

I also **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. Lab animals have suffered enough and deserve loving homes, and shelters should provide good care for animals in their charge.

Thank you in advance for considering my comments.

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