

March 19, 2015

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

Please accept this testimony to support SB 361.

I support increasing the penalties for intentional animal cruelty, and ask that you add language to SB 361 that would prevent gestation crates in Connecticut. Intensive confinement of farm animals is already here in Connecticut. Nine states (included RI and ME) and the European Union have passed legislation to outlaw gestation crates. Smithfield Foods, the nation's largest pig producer, and Cargill have announced that they will end the confinement of sows in gestation crates in their company-owned facilities. Major corporations such as Nestle, McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's, and more than 70 others have announced that they will end gestation crate use in their supply. Connecticut should join with this amazing list of enlightened states and companies who are standing up for humane farming practices.

Additionally, I oppose HB 6034 permitting Sunday hunting on public lands. There should be at least one day when any person can walk on public lands in this state without risk or fear of being accidentally injured because of hunting.

Finally, 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.

Yours truly,

Richard L. Hasbany
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