

**Testimony Concerning 5707  
Environment Committee , March 20, 2015  
Valerie Morrell Guilford, CT**

I would like to thank the distinguished members of the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my personal support of H.B. 5707, The Proper Sheltering/Beagle Freedom Bill.

I am a constituent in the 98th, and 3rd districts, respectively, residing in Guilford, Connecticut. As a lifelong resident of Connecticut, I have been an active voter my entire adult life. Politics and volunteering have always been of interest to me. I have volunteered for many years when my son was a student in the public school system, at my local church, and have also volunteered in the 2012 United States senatorial campaign. My interest in volunteering in my community has led me to becoming an active supporter of animal rescue. I have always had a love for animals, especially dogs, and I spend many hours outside of my job rehoming dogs in need.

With respect to H.B. 5707, I feel very strongly that this bill needs support as a fundamental humane measure. On the point of sheltering, to require that dogs that are left outside to endure the elements during our harsh New England winters with adequate protection seems like a logical step. Requiring the need for clean, and unfrozen water, access to sufficient space for comfort, and a solidly constructed shelter, is common sense and an essential need for survival. They are living beings that depend on humans for basic needs, and we need to pass laws to allow our valued law enforcement and ACO's (animal control officers) to do their jobs diligently, by taking action when deemed necessary for the protection of these animals.

With respect to the beagle freedom portion of the bill, I would like to address why this is important for consideration along with the sheltering aspect of the bill. As I mentioned above, I rescue dogs. I have seen animals that have come from incomprehensible circumstances be rehabilitated, re-homed and live out their days in loving homes that benefit both the animals as well as the adopter. I strongly urge that you consider the important measure of offering adoptive measures for the animals that have been subjected to animal research to have a second chance, where humanely possible.

I care very much about animals, and their humane treatment wherever and whenever possible. I speak to you today as a strong supporter of H.B. 5707, which is why I am here today to speak on their behalf. My family and I were born and raised here, educated here and I will continue to speak in regards to our concerns. I am proud of our state and would like to see Connecticut raise the bar and set an example for others.

I thank you so much for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of the voiceless, the opportunity to testify, and I appeal to all of you for your support of HB 5707.

Thank You,



Valerie J. Morrell  
Guilford, CT