

March 17, 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,

Please accept this testimony in **SUPPORT 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 farming practices.

I am among the 91% of Connecticut voters who want a ban on gestation crates, and I will be following this matter very closely. I am very disappointed that the Chairs of the Environment Committee have refused to allow any of four bills this year on this inhumane practice to be granted a public hearing. The committee chairs also refused to ban battery cages (HB 5688) and this is not the direction the majority of Connecticut voters want to go. Nine states (included RI and ME) and the European Union have passed legislation to outlaw gestation crates which means Connecticut will start looking good to these mega-farms as they become more desperate to find states in which to practice their cruelty.

Additionally, I **OPPOSE Sunday hunting (HB 6034)**, because I want my one day of peace in the woods and because bow hunting is inhumane (high crippling rate), and 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,

Cynthia Mulhearn

6 Ragged Mountain Rd.

Southington, CT. 06489