

Dear Environmental Committee ,

Dear ,Christine Cohen , Mike Demico, Stephen Harding ,Craig Miner and all other committee members.

My name is Glynis Simmons I am a constituent of Connecticut residing in Meriden. I recently learned about Bill 999, AKA Cat tax.

I am very alarmed it have made several phone calls in addition to this email completely opposing this bill and any and all like it along with my concerns as follows :

I am speaking from personal experiences as well as knowledge from helping animals and being proactive in animal welfare.

I have taken in many strays cats ,ferals, dogs rabbits, turtles, birds and squirrels over my lifetime. I have taken out of my pocket , away from my household to improve the lives of the animals that have been abandoned due to the negligence of people. I have gone to Great Lengths to find proper care for them, to find homes for them, as well as spaying and neutering the cats that we are discussing at this time. As you know the shelters are overloaded that's making any additional taxes for someone like myself would be incomprehensible and a huge disservice to me and the animals that I have helped and will continue to help and other people that do the same things that I do to help we are doing a community service without being asked we are compassionate people that will not turn our face to suffering.

I have had called my local animal control for services, I have reported people abandoning their animals, one extremely sad case of abandonment, they were dumped in the middle of January a couple years ago, during a very frigid time of year where there was no possible way they can fend for themselves, I am observant enough to have realized what had happened. I was able to help. I have been told a couple of occasions over the years they will not pursue these people that did the abandoning, no explanation was given. Pet abandonment and abuse is about as low as a person can get , it's right next to child abuse, unfortunately these incidences are not uncommon.

Instead of further punishing the animals and the people that are trying to help, you should be come up with tactics to pursue and punish the people that are committing these aberrant acts. They are irresponsible individuals that continue to abandon ,abuse, neglect, breed, ect should be held accountable for their unconscionable actions.

I feel as though your proposed tax will only hurt The people that are trying to help the cycles of abuse ,abandonment and neglect of spaying and neutering and the animals they are trying to help. On the other side it will cost the towns much more money to do these senseless rounding up of these animals it will have persons consumed with trying to find their pet if their pet possibly has lost their tag I'm sure wearing a tagged collar be required which would put the Animals help at-risk do to cats had to squeeze in small spaces and yes my cats have been attacked by two dogs down the street that once again nothing was done my cats were on the porch two dogs from two blocks over we're running free attacked my cats attacked my house came on to my porch and try to attack my dogs after they nearly killed the cat they were able to get. Once again very difficult to even try to get something done about this incident.

An animal wearing a collar is a danger to it's life. It is a high probability it can be strangled if caught somewhere or killed if it cannot break free from an attack from another animal .

These are two incidences that have happened to me. I know of many others.

I do believe Imposing such a tax is not beneficiary to anyone not the people, not the town with increased spending ,would have countless senseless hours spent when that time would be better

spent looking for animal abusers ,looking for animals that are in trouble and helping the community put an end to the cycle of animal abuse and certainly not the cats.

As soon as I saw this proposed tax , it disturbingly certainly reminds me of China how they have such a poor almost non-existent animal welfare system and the horrible things that are being allowed under the guise of helpful services.

This proposal is certainly not looking out for the well-being of our animals, as resources are limited our pounds and Humane Societies are always in need of help so we as humans should be watching out for the animals well-being they have every right to be here add to live without being subject to Injustice and prejudices against them. And dear committee we should treat animals with respect, our environment needs to be treated with respect we must coexist without harming other species. I'm sure none of you need to be reminded that we are also animals.

Society has become so blind and desensitized , I think most peoples thought process and values in our society are "down the drain" and those in places of authority must not allow this path of destruction to continue. Compassion and care for others on this planet needs to be acted upon ,prioritized and strongly reiterated.

I strongly oppose Bill 999 and strongly urge you to Vote No on the "cat tax".

Respectfully,

G.Simmons

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