

December 4, 2013

Dear Committee Member:

My name is Hollie Lee and I am an employee at the Dog House in Manchester, CT. Along with my fellow employees, we pride ourselves on our knowledge, first hand experience, integrity and responsibility to the animals in our care.

As animal lovers, we are very passionate about what we do at The Dog House. Along with our veterinarians, we try our very best to insure that all of our puppies are happy and healthy when they go to their new homes. We have thousands of happy, satisfied customers, many of whom have come back to purchase their second and third puppy from us.

Trying to put a pet store out of business throughout Connecticut does three things that do **NOTHING** to eliminate unregulated breeders:

1. Closing a business that sells healthy pets to families does nothing to curb or stop illegal breeding practices. In fact, it *increases* the opportunities for unregulated breeders to breed animals without any standards to fill consumer demand.
2. Closing The Dog House and all other Connecticut pet shops who sell puppies is a disservice to owners and employees such as myself.
3. Closing this business only decreases the options for families who want to find 'just the right pet' -- whether that is at a shelter, through a rescue or at a pet store.

I believe politicians shouldn't insert themselves in a free market which gives Americans consumer choice -- and that includes the pet industry. Their lack of knowledge about our industry, and animal welfare, and how it works, often creates only more problems from their good intentions.

I certainly support any regulation that prevents the inhumane breeding of dogs or cats, but I believe that the action your task force is considering is misguided. I urge you to consider other alternatives to putting The Dog House and other Connecticut Pet Shops out of business. I request that you put your energy and resources in supporting the US Department of Agriculture efforts to identify and eliminate any and all the "bad" breeders. This is definitely a way to improve the puppy industry and insure healthy animals in Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,

Hollie Lee, Employee  
The Dog House