

February 2, 2013

Re: SB 57

Chairman Love and other members of the Kansas State Agriculture Committee:

We are a married couple in our mid 70s and have been involved in raising dogs for over twenty years, under the name of LouJean Kennel. As seniors, we use the income from this business to supplement Social Security. We are licensed with USDA (#48-A-1356) and the State of Kansas (#A-594-2013).

We have several concerns with the proposed bill, the first being with the proposed changes in the fees. Some of them have more than doubled! This is excessive. Some of the proposed fees would be high enough to cause a problem for some premises. If the budget is currently strained, the State might consider dropping inspections on premises that are also inspected by USDA. We disagree with the proposal of having two fees on premises that have more than one type operation. Since the fee is an **inspection** fee, one inspection should cover all operations at one location. No double fees should be charged.

We favor having the Governor making appointments to the Advisory Board from nominations submitted by the various pet organizations.

It does not seem to be a good idea to have an "international entity" involved in any way in our industry. Please keep it within the boundaries of the State of Kansas.

The make-up of the Advisory Board should involve people with varying interests in the pet industry. Board members should be Kansas licensed, perhaps half also being USDA licensed. It would be beneficial if they were members of a pet related organization so they would be speaking for others as well as themselves. One member-at-large should be a person with no connection to the industry, but should **NOT** be an animal rights activist.

Over all, we would like to see the bill killed in committee and have the Advisory Board and the Dept. of Agriculture work together on a better bill to be considered next year.

Thank you for considering our views.

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