

Lorilee Thomas
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February 2, 2016

Dear Chairman Schwartz and House Ag Committee;

My name is Lorilee Thomas. I have owned my own business near Whiting, KS for 6 years after having the privilege of managing that same business for the previous owners for 12 years prior. I am licensed by the state of Kansas and USDA. I am a member of the Kansas Pet Professionals and their past secretary for 5 years. I am also currently the breeder representative for the Kansas Pet Animal Advisory Board.

I believe in the Kansas Pet Animal Act and the job that it does in keeping our state free from sub-standard facilities. The breeders that I represent understand how important the Kansas Pet Animal Act is in protecting the integrity of our industry. They also understand that there are funds needed to fulfill this obligation. The fees have not been adjusted in ten years and these same breeders are welcoming this fee increase as they understand that a reasonable increase will allow our state's inspection program to continue. The continuance of the program is vital to me and the breeders I represent in showing the rest of the world that Kansas cares about the welfare of the animals it produces.

HB 2554 will combine the animal breeder categories. The Kansas Animal Commissioner, Dr. Brown will set our fees in regulations according to size. These different categories should help eliminate any concerns of fairness in fee increases because they will be set according to the sizes of the facilities.

I support HB 2554 and request that you also support it without further changes. I have had the privilege of representing breeders on the Pet Animal Advisory Board for several years and working with Dr. Brown and his staff to help with these updates on the Kansas Pet Animal Act. Our advisory board has spent many hours in making sure that this Act is something that every licensee can adhere to and one that every licensee can be proud to be a part of. To the breeders that I represent, the Kansas Pet Animal Act is more than just another set of rules to follow. The Kansas Pet Animal Act represents a roadmap that assists licensees in their pursuit of excellence and integrity in their professional businesses. It shows our customers that we choose to take a step above the rest. In the past, Kansas has been known as the "model" state because of this Pet Animal Act and as professionals in this industry and state we would like to continue this tradition. We can and should be PROUD to live, work and produce in Kansas. Support of HB 2554 will accomplish this.

Sincerely,

Lorilee Thomas