



Ohio Cattlemen's
Association



Ohio Corn & Wheat
Growers Association



Ohio Dairy Producers
Association



OHIO FARM BUREAU
Ohio Farm Bureau
Federation



Ohio Poultry
Association



OHIO SOYBEAN
ASSOCIATION
Ohio Soybean
Association

Government Accountability and Oversight Committee
March 7, 2018
HB 506 Interested Party Testimony

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke and Ranking Member Clyde, on behalf of the undersigned members of the agricultural community please accept this letter as interested party testimony on House Bill 506.

While this bill pertains to dog breeding standards, the signatories to this letter have an interest in the subject as dog breeding standards were part of a larger agreement with HSUS signed in 2010 ("the Agreement"). The Agreement required the parties to work together to improve animal care and standards, which included passage of dog breeding legislation.

Specifically pertinent to this discussion is Senate Bill 130, which was enacted into law in the 129th General Assembly. SB 130 fulfilled the dog breeding and care standards section of the Agreement by creating the license structure for "high volume dog breeders" as well as mandating care standards. It also created the commercial dog breeding advisory board at ODA, which reviews existing and proposed care rules.

We understand that with continuous research, practice and the march of technology, livestock care and dog breeding standards are a changing and improving dynamic. There is always more to learn and better practices that can be implemented with new knowledge. This is not a stagnant field but one that is changing and these standards need to be adaptable.

The creation of boards at ODA for both livestock care and dog breeding, in most scenarios, has properly allowed for needed improvements without legislation or constitutional changes. However, at this time we understand that the care of breeding dogs will be best served with changes to Ohio's statute.

At the forefront of this dog breeding research and study are veterinarians. Agriculture depends on the expertise and professionalism of our veterinarians. We entrust our animals, our livelihoods, with their skillful care, opinion and treatment. The Ohio Veterinary Medical Association believes that this bill will improve Ohio's dog breeding care standards. The agriculture community works closely with veterinarians and we respect the expertise of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association and their guidance on proper care standards for dog breeding.

Thank you again for the opportunity of the signatories of this letter to provide you with some history on Ohio's dog breeding standards as well as our input on this bill. We would also be happy to meet if any member has questions about the Agreement.

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Ohio Cattlemen's Association

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