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Dedicated to making Michigan a no more homeless pets state.

Agriculture Standing Committee Meeting
April 28, 2010
HB 6042, HB 6043, HB4802

Dear Chairperson Huckleberry and members of the Agricultural Committee:

Thank you for the privilege of providing testimony today!

Although I sit here alone today - - - I ask you to visualize (like the Verizon Commercial and the network of folks that follow the phone user) those I represent: a statewide not-for-profit organization, the Michigan Pet Fund Alliance with over 10 shelter and 30 rescue partner organizations; 3-low cost spay/neuter clinics, and the almost 1400 Michigan residents that took the time to fill out these cards expressing their position to have gassing stopped in Michigan.

In October we sent a request for a hearing to Chairperson Simpson along with our first batch of 800 postcards – our transmittal letter is attached to our testimony. At the time we had posted on YouTube an actual video of a gas chamber operation at a shelter that was taken before they discontinued this practice so that your decision on these bills would be made with a full understanding the practice. We invited the viewing of the video for a realistic depiction. After three weeks, we were notified by YouTube that the video had been removed because it violated their guidelines for posting and was found to be **graphic, disturbing and cruel**.

Others today will and have testified as to why these bills should be adopted addressing:

- The science – EBI is the preferred method by AVMA.
- The safety – EBI is totally safe – gassing on the other hand has not been practiced in this state according to AVMA guidelines and warnings are in the guidelines about the human risks when not followed.
- The cost – Not only is EBI less expensive to practice but American Humane has generously committed to funding the transitioning of the existing 9 operations to EBI.

We testify today on behalf of the residents of Michigan who don't want tax dollars spent to gas animals. We testify today on behalf of the residents of Michigan who believe that gassing should be stopped NOW. We testify for Michigan Animal Lovers who believe that we as a society owe it to our homeless innocent pets to provide the most humane practice possible to end their lives especially since it is most often our human irresponsibility that has caused their homelessness.

Maya Angelou is quoted as saying... We do better when We know better. Having fully examined this issue – we know better and are asking your wholehearted support for these bills. Make a moral proclamation ... Michigan won't gas homeless pets.

Thank you.

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October 13, 2009

Representative Mike Simpson
Chair of the Agriculture Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Simpson:

The Michigan Pet Fund Alliance respectfully requests that you schedule a hearing for HB 4263, 4802 and 4803 Humane Euthanasia prior to Thanksgiving.

Enclosed you will find 800 post cards signed by Michigan residents that **do not want gassing** as an option for Michigan's homeless cats and dogs. We do not want our tax dollars used in this inhumane practice.

These post cards were gathered in a matter of hours at Pet-a-Palooza in August. Recently I mailed another 1000 post cards to 10 organizations throughout the state that asked to participate in gathering signatures. We will continue our efforts to provide you evidence that Michigan residents support HB 4263, 4802 and 4803 until the bill is passed and the 11 shelters in this state practice what the other 177 shelters do which is euthanasia by injection. There is NOT ONE veterinarian in this state that euthanizes a patient by gassing and the citizens of Michigan want homeless animals to have the same peaceful death as a pet that has a home.

As you are aware we also have an on-line petition with just under 52,000 signatures.

If you are unsure of your support of this horrific practice, I invite you to watch a video of it in one of Michigan's shelters. Please visit this link at our website: <http://www.michiganpetfund.org/legislation.php> and click on the words *Graphic and Disturbing Video* which will take you to a nine minute video at the shelter.

The American Veterinary Medical Association is updating their euthanasia guidelines and it appears that they will remove gassing as an option for dogs and cats euthanasia.

We stand ready to answer any questions you may have and participate in the committee hearing.

Sincerely,

Deborah Kay Schutt
Chairperson

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