



# THE CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

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May 22, 2009

VIA TELEFACSIMILE

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Conference Committee On House Bill 2310

Representative Charlie Geren

P.O. Box 2910

Austin, TX 78768

Re: HB 2310, Relating to the powers and duties of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, including the power to issue emergency orders and temporary and emergency licenses **OPPOSITION**

Dear Representative Geren;

I am writing on behalf of The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. (CFA)<sup>1</sup> to oppose HB 2310 as amended. We request that the conference committee remove Floor Amendment No. 1 regarding cat and dog breeders.

Floor Amendment No. 1 is nothing more than a "back door" attempt to revive a bill (HB 3180) which has been failing in the Texas legislature due to fundamental flaws both its approach and in its details. It has generated fierce opposing from a broad coalition of pet lovers throughout Texas. It is opposed not only by hobby breeders, but rescue groups, animal lovers and veterinary professionals such as the Texas Veterinary Medical Association.

There has been no public hearing and no public input into Floor Amendment #1. Even the author of HB 2310, Representative Edmund Kuempel, objected to his bill being amended. Insertion of Floor

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<sup>1</sup> *The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. (CFA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1906. Part of CFA's mission is to enhance the well-being of all cats. CFA participants, who breed and show pedigreed cats, are active in cat health promotion, cat breed rescue, shelter support and other animal related programs throughout the world. CFA is a positive force that has helped to educate the public about proper cat care, spay/neuter and responsible pet ownership. CFA is proud of its self-regulation programs to encourage high standards of care for cats in multi-cat breeding environments. A voluntary "Cattery of Excellence" program and breeder mentoring program are part of ongoing efforts to ensure responsible breeding and good cattery environments.*

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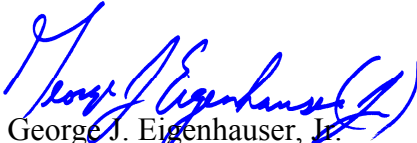
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Amendment 1 into HB 2310 is a slap in the face to all of the groups and individuals who have been involved in the legislative process. It certainly appears that radical national "animal rights" interests are more important than the wishes of the Texas electorate.

The Texas Veterinary Medical Association noted in their opposition to this legislative approach that: "...this legislation could actually result in an increase in the types of operations the bill is supposed to address<sup>2</sup>." We agree. Arbitrary quotas on the number animals hobby breeders may own, excessive government intrusion into peoples' private homes, fees, licenses, insurance and other red tape will only drive out hobby breeders unable to afford the costs. But the commercial breeders will merely pass the costs along to the consumers. If you prevent consumers from getting their pets from responsible hobby breeders you send them into the arms of the very people this law pretends to eliminate.

Commercial pet breeders are already regulated by the Federal Government under the Animal Welfare Act. Acts of animal cruelty are already prohibited under Texas law. Enforcement of existing laws would resolve the complaints Floor Amendment 1 purports to resolve. By using a technical loophole to evade the wishes of the Texas electorate, Floor Amendment 1 is just plain wrong. We are urging removal of Floor Amendment 1 from the bill.

Very truly yours,

  
George J. Eigenhauser, Jr.  
CFA Legislative Coordinator

CC: Pamela DelaBar, CFA President  
Allene Tartaglia, CFA Executive Director

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<sup>2</sup> See, "Texas Veterinary Medical Association Supports Responsible Pet Ownership" available online at: [http://www.tvma.org/Media\\_Room/news\\_09\\_hb\\_3180.phtml](http://www.tvma.org/Media_Room/news_09_hb_3180.phtml)