EXHIBIT 25
DATE 2-21-13
HB 439

1)

2·18·13

Dear Committee Members,

Please help to ensure that animals bred, sold & adopted in Montana are healthy & don't have unknown diseases, injuries & social issues that cause suffering to the animals & that are financially & emotionally expensive to the purchasers, adopters & those counties that rescue dogs from puppy mills.

A recent rescue of 162 malamutes just outside of Helena, Mt. cost: $500.000.

Dogs from puppy mills are often raised in cruel & inhumane conditions. Some breeders go as far as having the dog's ability to bark surgically removed, so that they can "quietly" continue thier deplorable form of business. Many of the dogs never leave the cages till sold, walking on wire & stacked three to four cages high. They are put into crates & stacked into semi trailers with no air conditioning or heat then driven across the country to be sold in auctions where other such breeders buy them. The females often live thier entire lives being bred & whelping over & over again.

2)

My husband & I had a personal experience with a puppy mill previously mentioned (malamutes) outside of Helena. This Kennel had a beautiful, informative & impressive website, lot's of awards, ribbons & good breeding. We also spoke to the breeder several times on the phone. He "talked a good talk." We drove there from Western Montana to meet him & buy a pup. The road to the Kennel was worse than a logging road, more like a switch back. Upon arrival we slowly went into shock. Aprox. 62 malamutes that we could see were all vocalizing at once. Kennel after Kennel with airring pens in between. All the Kennels & pens were filled with 5' to 6' of feces & urine, thick like mud. The breeder had it all over his clothes & laid down in the Kennels with the dogs. The dogs were filthy, unsocialized and had varying degrees of illness, infestations & or injuries. One litter that he showed us ("one yr. olds that were unsocialized") all bolted backwards into each other and onto a broken, feces smeared

It creates a source of revenue to deal with the issue & to run the program as well as a reporting & inspecting system.

The state of Montana has far to many puppy mills. It is fastly becoming known to out of state puppy mills as a "safe haven" with little or no regulation.

As a Montanan with 7 generations of Montanans, with a farming & ranching history, I strongly urge you to vote yes on HB 439 Montana Commercial Pet Protection Act. Help make a positive difference for the dogs, environment & population here in Montana.

Thank you for your time & consideration,

Martha & Jim Stammers
Charlo, Mt.