

April 2, 2009

Testimony Favoring HB548
Senate Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation Committee

Dear Committee Chairman and Members:

Passing HB 548 will give Montana a means of ensuring that our communities won't have to shoulder the burden of the cost of cleaning up huge poorly run puppy mills like the ones that we have seen the last few years. Puppy mill problems have been on the increase in Montana and now is the time to allow our State Veterinarian to step in and see to it that these facilities are selling healthy, disease free animals. In addition it will provide some guarantee to the individual or family purchasing a puppy or dog that the facility selling the animal has met at least minimum standards and passed inspections. This means they will be less likely to get an animal that is genetically inferior or in poor health. I'm pretty sure you will find that even operations selling fewer than the 100 animals per year will pay the required fee and want to be inspected so that they can show the public that they are serious about providing healthy animals.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Judith Fenton, retired dog kennel owner
One Grizzly Way
Clancy, MT 59634
(406)933-5922
Bulldog66@bresnan.net