

Chairman Kyle Hoffman and Members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony in opposition to SB 47 to amend the Kansas Pet Animal Act. My name is Michelle Russell, and I am a professional breeder licensed by the state of Kansas. I am also active on the board of directors of multiple breeder organizations at the state and national level. I am a strong advocate for animal welfare and I understand the importance of having a strong state regulatory program in place.

Today is the fifth time this bill has been presented.

I have heard it said many times over that main goal of this legislation is to raise fees to ensure that the Fic Program continues to have the funding necessary to keep it staffed as currently in place, and that failure to do so would cause cut backs to the program.

I do not wish for our program to have financial burdens, however, I cannot support this bill as written, nor can I support the added amendments.

I respectfully ask that you consider stripping this bill of all language except Section 13, which includes the fee schedule necessary to maintain inspections for the Kansas Pet Animal Act. I believe if passed as written HB 2097 will cause harm to the future of Kansas breeders.

Thank you for your time.