

Lorilee Thomas  
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March 20, 2023

Dear Chairman Rahjes and Committee Members,

My name is Lorilee Thomas and I have an Animal Breeder and also a Distributor license with the Animal Facilities Inspection Program in our state and also with the United States Department of Agriculture . I am currently the secretary for the Kansas Pet Professionals and I serve as the Animal Distributor member on the Pet Animal Advisory Board. I am here today in opposition of House Bill 2437.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Pet Animal Advisory Board and the privilege of working in the past on changes made to the Kansas Pet Animal Act. This act was originally designed to help the licensees in our state have rules that they could uniformly follow. The Kansas Pet Animal Act is very important to myself and all licensees in our state because it is what we use everyday to operate our businesses and stay in compliance.

In reference to K.S.A.47-1725 of the Kansas Pet Animal Act, you will find the duties and powers of the Pet Animal Advisory Board. It clearly states that it is the board's responsibility to review the status of the Kansas Pet Animal Act and to make recommendations concerning the rules and regulations for the Kansas Pet Animal Act. I would like to inform you that these rules were **not** followed and the Kansas Department of Agriculture chose to submit House Bill 2437 without allowing the Pet Animal Advisory Board to have any input on the changes that the department wanted to see in the act. If we as licensees are required to follow all the rules in this act to pass inspections and keep our license, then how can it be acceptable for the Department of Agriculture to not follow the rules of allowing the board that represents these licensees proper time to work through a bill that they wanted to submit?

The Pet Animal Advisory board had a zoom meeting on February 22, 2023 the same day that the bill was introduced- leaving no time for the board to follow the rules and duties assigned to them. A motion was made in that meeting to not support the bill due to not being allowed to review the bill. It passed with 6 votes of yes and 1 abstaining. 2 members were not present and one seat was vacant. Another zoom meeting was held on March 20, 2023 where the board was asked by the department to discuss potential testimony on House Bill2437. Another vote was taken to send the resolution to your committee so that you were aware of the position taken by the Pet Animal Advisory board. I hope that you received this. 2 board members were not present for this vote, the Animal Breeder position is vacant and has been for quite some time, However; 4 voted Yes to send this resolution to you and 3 didn't want it sent to your committee.

I would like to ask you to please oppose House Bill 2437 and see if you are able to find out why the Pet Animal Advisory Board wasn't allowed the opportunity to work this bill prior to submission?

Thank you for your time,

Lorilee Thomas