

HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

BILL NUMBER: HB2447

Support _____

Oppose X

Neutral _____

Testimony Will Be: **In Person Oral x** Webex Oral _____ Written Only _____

For Meeting on 3/13/2023

Testimony By: Vanessa Cowie
(Name of person testifying)

On Behalf Of: **Prairie Paws Animal Shelter & The Midwest Alliance for Animals**
(Association, Corporation, Individual)

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**House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development
Testimony in opposition to HB 2447**

Monday, March 13, 2023

Chair Tarwater and members of the House Commerce Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today in opposition of House Bill 2447 as introduced. My name is Vanessa Cowie and I am the Executive Director of The Prairie Paws Animal Shelter. I also serve as the Chair for the Midwest Alliance for Animals, an alliance that serves to advocate and educate on best practice legislation, ensuring companion animals in our state are treated the way Kansans expect them to be. All of our member organizations are at least partially funded with taxpayer dollars, so fiscal responsibility is also a focus of our work.

While the discussions around the use of plastic bags are of no interest to our organizations, this bill in its current form, can and will be utilized to prevent our local governments from properly regulating the sale of cats and dogs. It has become clear that in Kansas, and many surrounding states, the supply chain that sources high volumes of dogs and cats for commercial sale is heavily scrutinized and requires regulation and sometimes prohibition at a local level. Aside from the public mistrust in the supply chain, high volume sales of commercially bred, unaltered, juvenile dogs and cats directly impacts the burden faced by animal shelters. Removing the right for a municipality to regulate the sale of the product and then forcing them to fund the burden it creates, is an imbalanced approach. Every community in Kansas has unique challenges relating to the overpopulation of companion animals, and those municipalities need to retain the flexibility to mitigate those challenges effectively.

The primary focus of my testimony is to urge you to retain the protections that municipalities can provide for cats and dogs in our communities. Secondly, I am a resident of this state and there are many products and services that are currently permitted under state law that cities and counties have been entrusted to ban to ensure our safety and quality of life

On behalf of Prairie Paws Animal Shelter and the Midwest Alliance for Animals I ask you to oppose HB2447.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Cowie
Executive Director - Prairie Paws Animal Shelter
Chair - Midwest Alliance for Animals