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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Caitlin W Kelley, my husband Richard and I live in South Berwick, ME with our two children ages 6 and 4, and our current team of 8 Siberian Huskies. We started our small family kennel TwoShadows Siberians in 2018, though I have been working with Siberians since 1997, and lived with them since 2009. We race and mush in the winter, dryland run with an ATV and bike in the spring and fall, run agility, show in confirmation, play at barn hunt/happy ratters, and participate in Rally and Obedience. I am a member in good standing of the Siberian Husky Club of America and the current president of Yankee Siberian Husky Club. We strive to produce working/performance Siberians from health tested parents, with sound to the standard structure, and with wonderful versatile temperaments. The proposed bill LD 1771 hurts responsible kennel owners like myself and my family in multiple ways.

LD 1771 takes away local municipal rules and regulations and community relationships. Right now, we have a good relationship with our local ACO, Carol Harris, who has asked to use our kennel as an example for the few others in the area. When I walk into the clerk's office of South Berwick they know who I am, all of my files are up to date in an easy access binder that I can retrieve in a moment's notice to show my dogs records and our kennel license. In SB we are allowed under the municipal regulations to have one kennel license that covers up to 10 dogs. The proposed changes in bill LD 1771 could also lead to inspection delays. I instantly received my kennel inspection the same day that I contacted Carol. She was at my house within 15 minutes and we were able to go over everything in an extremely timely manner, then within a week, I was able to go to my town hall to receive my kennel license. If the state takes over all of the kennel inspections this will inevitably lead to delays and fines for those not able to get their kennels inspected in the one-month time window allotted.

LD 1771 will put more financial pressure on kennels state wide. The sled dog community is dwindling in numbers and this bill would put unnecessary financial pressure on an already high-pressure hobby. By the AKC's definition "a Hobby Kennel is typically a home-based endeavor involving five or more personally owned dogs for breeding, hunting, show, training, field trials, sledding, competition or exhibition purposes". These hobby kennels are NOT commercial businesses and should not have to meet the same stringent terms. LD 1771 would inappropriately categorize hobby kennels as a "Facility" and make it virtually impossible for the home-based kennels to comply with the rules and regulations of a state business. These changes include, but are not limited to, ventilation, lighting, drainage, waste disposal, fire equipment, isolation areas and structural regulations. Current yearly inspections already address many of these conditions. I'm going to digress and say that though we are by definition

a "Hobby Kennel" I do not like the term as this is more than a hobby to us, it is a Life Style and passion. The dogs are our family. All of our dogs are inside with us, raised in our home with our children.

We all feel that the pressure of price increases everywhere including food, vet care, transportation, kennel materials, etc. LD 1771 will increase my kennel licensing alone from \$42 a year, to \$138 a year. That's a 228% increase! This is simply not sustainable. These exorbitant costs this could discourage people from being responsible pet and kennel owners and lead to even fewer pets/kennels being licensed.

In summary, I believe that LD 1771 should be opposed on the grounds of decreasing local municipal control, outrageous financial increase, inevitable inspection delays and inappropriate labeling and categorizing of "Hobby kennels" to a "Facility". Maintaining local municipal kennel licensing, will preserve the lifestyle that many strive to achieve, not only in financial terms but in community needs as well.