



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: (207) 287-4469

Paul A. Stearns

33 Applebee Hill Road

Guilford, ME 04443

Residence: (207) 876-3242

Cell: (207) 343-2615

Paul.Stearns@legislature.maine.gov

March 9th, 2021

Testimony In favor of LD 561 "Resolve, To Improve Standards for Animal Rescue Entities"

Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil and distinguished members of the Joint Committee On Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,

I am Paul Stearns and I represent House District 119 in Piscataquis County, and I present to you LD 561, which seeks to set standards designed to provide a positive safe experience for both animals and customers of animal rescue shelters in Maine.

I submit this legislation at the request of a constituent. It is my understanding that currently there are no staff to dog ratios in place to ensure that each animal has the proper daily care and attention. A single person could have an unlimited amount of dogs on hand.

It was also brought to my attention that a dog might be sold, go to a household and exhibit vicious behavior, only to be returned to the shelter and re-sold; in some cases multiple times with the same results.

If this is indeed the case, then it would seem to me that some tighter rules in both of these areas would be in order.

I will do my best to answer any questions that you may have, but I suspect that there will be others giving testimony that have far more knowledge on this topic than I do.

Paul Stearns

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Stearns".

Maine House District 119

District 119 Abbot, Beaver Cove, Bowerbank, Greenville, Guilford, Monson, Parkman, Sangerville, Sebec, Shirley, Willimantic plus the unorganized territories of Blanchard Township, Northeast Piscataquis (including Barnard and Elliottsville Townships) and Northwest Piscataquis

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