

**From:** [Elizabeth Jones](#)  
**To:** [Trisha Linebarger](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 7, 2020 6:55:39 AM

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From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission  
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 8:24:43 PM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS DEPARTMENT LICENSING AND REGULATION

First Name: Mark

Last Name: Solano

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email:

City: Houston

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

I am disappointed to see the recommendation to repeal the state program that regulates puppy mills in the state of Texas. This program keeps breeders in check and without this very important measure we leave ourselves open to an unprecedented number of stray animals roaming across our cities and counties.

A cited qualification for the removal of this regulation was the finding that this program "is not necessary to protect the public." This statement does not adequately assess the One Health model within public health. Bad actors within the animal welfare community breed pets at such a high frequency that they are not adequately inspected for communicable diseases that pose risks to human health.

This program serves as an important tool that allows Texans to make decisions about a breeder before making a purchase. In order to protect animals and overall public health we need to continue this program and additionally find smarter solutions that would increase the avenues of enforcement.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

The regulation needs to address certain areas that would increase the overall strength relating to enforcement. An efficient fix to this regulation would be to remove the unenforceable requirement that only breeders selling more than twenty puppies or kittens be licensed.

Additionally, we must lower the count of breeding females from eleven to five. This would follow the USDA requirement and would allow inspectors to safely audit more breeders.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree