



October 28, 2020

Texas Sunset Commission  
P.O. Box 13066  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Members:

As the authors of the 2011 legislation creating the Dog or Cat Breeders Act, we are writing to express our strong opposition to the Sunset staff recommendation to eliminate the Texas Licensed Breeder Program under the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

This regulation was carefully crafted to address the volume and increasing rate of stray animals that were overwhelming and continue to overwhelm most Texas towns and cities. The intent of this bill was to enact basic standards of care in medium to large scale breeding operations in order to reduce the toll of animal cruelty, as well as to create reasonable barriers of entry for prospective "puppy mills."

The Texas Licensed Breeders Program continues to keep breeders in check and without this regulation the state loses a consistent way to track whether breeders with animal cruelty convictions are applying to breed or sell dogs and cats in Texas. Even those who are not vocal advocates in the animal welfare community know that "puppy mills" are synonymous with the disreputable, inhumane treatment of animals.

While we respect the hard work of the Sunset staff, we strongly believe we need to not only preserve the Texas Licensed Breeders Program but also strengthen its enforcement in order to continue to protect the interests of Texans and our animals.

Thank you for your service on the Sunset Commission and your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Senfronia Thompson".

Senfronia Thompson  
State Representative

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Whitmire".

John Whitmire  
State Senator