

# Elk Creek Kennel

Jim & Wilma Westhoff

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To: Senate Agriculture Committee

Dear Senators,

My name is Wilma Westhoff I have been a professional kennel owner for the last 29 years. My husband Jim and I, is raising our granddaughter Natalie. Between the dogs and Natalie we stay very busy. I raise several different breeds. We do love what we do.

We believe in the Kansas Pet Animal Act. We have a very nice clean operation. Between our help and my granddaughter our pups are very friendly. We belong to the Kansas Pet Professionals organization, we attend quarterly meeting and also a yearly seminar to keep us informed.

We believe our current fees of \$200 are substantial. ERO #40 was supposed to save money by combining us with another agency last year, but now our fees are being proposed to be raised from \$200 to \$500. This is overly excessive, and uncalled for. If ERO 40 was to save money, we would have hoped for a slight decrease in fees. Please do not pass SB 57 out of committee without addressing the increase in fees.

We sell our puppies to Pet Stores; I have a distributor's license. I sell very few pups for other people. It would make hardship on us to have to pay dual fees. There is very few distributors come into state, because the fee for the out-of-state so high for them to come in the state of Kansas .

The current AG Department does not understand, this is a PREMISES license, not a business license. We pay according to many premises we have. ONE premise is ONE license fee. ONE premise requires ONE inspection. Let's look at trimming the budget instead of increasing revenue.

I strongly believe that the Advisory Board should still be appointed by the Governor. Each on the Advisory Board (where applicable) should belong to the organization so many voices are heard. I believe all that sit on the board other than the private citizen (with no link to the industry) should be licensed by the Kansas Pet Animal Act. One from each entity. We don't need federal government coming in and telling us what is best for Kansas

Either make the above mention changes to SB #57, or scrap the entire thing and leave us where we were last year, until the Advisory Board and the Ag. Department can agree on any and all changes before presenting to you and wasting your time.

Sincerely,

Wilma Westhoff

Senate Agriculture Committee

Date: 2-6-13

Attachment # 21-1

Wilma Westhoff, Breeder  
SB57