

February 19, 2024

## Dear Members of the House Taxation Committee:

My name is Christy Fischer and I'm the Executive Director of the Wichita Animal Action League. We are a 501c3, state licensed animal rescue and shelter in Wichita, Kansas. Since COVID, the need for our community outreach services and the intake requests for our foster/adoption program has grown exponentially. We are currently providing wraparound services for struggling pet owners in our county such as community pet food banks and assistance with pet supplies such as doghouses so that loving families can keep their pets during rocky economic times. This serves to honor the human-animal bond, to decrease the number of pets entering taxpayer-funded municipal shelters, and overall provides a much-needed service for our community where one doesn't exist.

We would strongly SUPPORT HB2794 which would prohibit 501c3 and state licensed animal shelters and rescues from having to pay sales tax on purchased and sold items. During these difficult times, donations are down quite a bit so this change would allow us to continue to help as many people as possible so that we can keep loving families intact and divert these animals away from already overwhelmed and overfull municipal animal shelters.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Christy Fischer

**Executive Director** 

Wichita Animal Action League