



## MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411  
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March 24, 2021

To: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.  
Re: Department of Agriculture – Spay/ Neuter Fund Extension and Fee on Commercial Feed – HB 146 -Support

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before to you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals. Speaking for Maryland Votes for Animals, our Board of Directors, and our members across Maryland, I respectfully request that the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee vote favorably for Department of Agriculture – Spay/ Neuter Fund Extension and Fee on Commercial Feed – HB 146 as amended in the House.

Maryland Votes for Animals worked on the legislation that passed in 2013 establishing The Spay and Neuter Grants Program. The goal of the program is to reduce shelter intake and euthanasia rates in Maryland. Using fees collected from pet food companies doing business in Maryland, the program provides competitive grants to local governments and non-profit animal welfare organizations for spay and neuter services of dogs and cats owned by low - income residents and for colonies of feral cats.

The sunset for this program is September 30, 2022. First and foremost, Maryland Votes for Animals would like to ensure that this lifesaving program continues without interruption. We would like to have as many funds as possible to approve even more grants. However, as a member of the Spay and Neuter Advisory Board representing Maryland Votes for Animals, I participate in the process to approve grants and respectfully recommend that this bill be amended to conform with the version that passed in the House, which would allow the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the agency that administers the program, to include their data and input from the years that the program has been in force to evaluate the future schedule of fees charged to pet food companies.

I want to thank Delegate Lehman for her commitment to this program and ask for a favorable report for HB 146 as amended in the House.

*Let Kindness Reign, Vote Humane*

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*March 22, 2021*