



January 18, 2022

Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland
Via email

Re: MD S 206

Dear Senator Pinsky and committee:

The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) is writing in support of MD S 206, The Department of Agriculture – Spay/Neuter Fund – Extension.

The AFIA appreciates the efforts in Maryland to support access to low-cost spay and neuter services as an effective tool to reduce the number of pet euthanasias. We applaud the Maryland Department of Agriculture for efficient administration of the program and concomitant reduction of pet euthanasias.

The AFIA agrees in principle with the program's intended goals of targeting spay/neuter support for pet owners in low-income communities and populations. Pet food manufacturers are concerned about the plight of unwanted pets and frequently donate pet foods and other products to shelters and other pet care services.

We recognize that MD S 206 only addresses continuation of the low-cost spay and neuter services. The AFIA opposes consideration of changes to the spay/neuter fund beyond the existing fee of \$100 on each brand name or product name of commercial feed. The AFIA does not support exploring or expanding the program or fees.

Thank you for consideration of our support of MD S 206.

Sincerely,

Louise Calderwood
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Based in Arlington, Va., the AFIA is the world's largest organization devoted exclusively to representing the business, legislative and regulatory interests of the U.S. animal food industry and its suppliers. Founded in 1909 as the American Feed Manufacturers Association, the name changed to the American Feed Industry Association in 1985 to recognize the importance of all types of companies involved in the feed manufacturing industry—from manufacturers of commercial and integrated feed and pet food to ingredient suppliers to equipment manufacturers. The AFIA is also recognized as the leader on international industry developments, representing the industry at global forums, including within the International Feed Industry Federation.

Our Industry. Our Passion. Our Voice.

AFIA's members include nearly 650 domestic and international companies, such as livestock feed and pet food manufacturers, integrators, pharmaceutical companies, ingredient suppliers, equipment manufacturers and supply companies that provide other products or services to feed manufacturers. Several state, national and regional associations are also AFIA members.