

HB 1551: Department of Agriculture - Regulation of Dog Breeders: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Economic Matters Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **support HB 1551**, concerning *Department of Agriculture – Regulation of Dog Breeders*.

Responsible breeding practices are essential to protecting the health and welfare of dogs while also safeguarding consumers who purchase pets. **Establishing clear regulatory standards helps ensure that breeders operate in a humane, transparent, and accountable manner.**

HB 1551 provides an important framework for oversight by the Department of Agriculture, helping to ensure that breeding operations meet appropriate standards for animal care, housing conditions, veterinary oversight, and recordkeeping. Strengthening these standards can help prevent neglectful or irresponsible breeding practices while promoting ethical treatment of animals.

In addition to protecting animal welfare, stronger regulation benefits families who are seeking healthy pets. Clear rules and oversight can reduce the risk of consumers unknowingly purchasing animals from poorly managed breeding operations that may lead to health or behavioral issues.

Maryland residents care deeply about the humane treatment of animals. Ensuring that dog breeders operate responsibly helps protect both animals and the public while supporting ethical breeders who already follow high standards of care.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support HB 1551**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals