



August 4, 2006

TO: Coalition Members Opposed to Assembly Bill 2862

Committee Hearing Set for August 10 – New Amendments Would Impose Even More Costly, Unworkable Requirements on Pet Store Operators

The Senate Business and Professions Committee's second hearing on AB 2862 has been set for Thursday, August 10. The hearing will take place after Senate session – so it could occur any time after 9 a.m. that day.

As you will recall, the first Senate Business and Professions Committee hearing on this bill took place on June 26th and – due to the strong showing of opposition at the hearing from nearly 100 pet store operators and others, combined with your calls and letters to committee members– the measure did not pass the committee that day.

Since that time, pet store representatives worked hard to try to negotiate with the author's office and supporters of the bill to develop clear, fair and feasible standards for animal care – while eliminating inflexible, unreasonable and species-inappropriate requirements.

Unfortunately, the most recent set of amendments from the author's office make it clear that the author is unwilling to make adequate and necessary changes. In fact, some of the anticipated amendments are worse than current language. For example, new language would require each hamster to be placed in its own cage. Another poorly crafted and ill-conceived change would effectively require "veterinary care" for such animals as brine shrimp.

For these reasons, pet store operators should quickly convey their continued opposition to the bill during the week of August 7.

First, once new amendments are in print on Monday, pet store operators should call key legislators to inform them of continued coalition opposition. Please find calling tips and contact numbers at the end of this notice.

Second, pet store operators who are close to Sacramento should consider attending the hearing, if possible. As noted above, a specific time has not been set for the August 10 hearing, but participants should plan to arrive at the State Capitol by 9 a.m.

If you plan to attend the August 10 committee hearing in the State Capitol, please e-mail your name, the name of your store or business, your address and your cell phone number to noab2862@yahoo.com. Please include "August Committee Hearing" in the subject line of your e-mail.

An additional update on AB 2862 status – along with a copy of the amended version of the bill - will be forwarded on Monday. For further information, please e-mail noab2862@yahoo.com

To communicate continued opposition, place “no on AB 2862” phone calls to key legislators August 7 – August 9:

- 1) Direct phone calls to Senators Aanestad, Morrow, Simitian, Florez and Figueroa

Senator Sam Aanestad – 916-651-4004
Senator Liz Figueroa- 916-651-4010
Senator Bill Morrow - 916-651-4038
Senator Joe Simitian- 916-651-4011
Senator Dean Florez - 916-651-4016

- 2) Ask for the staff member who handles Business and Professions Committee issues for the Senator and either speak to them directly or leave a message on their voice mail. Avoid leaving messages with the secretary.
- 3) Give your name and your business (if applicable) and tell the staff member that you are calling to urge the Senator to vote no on AB 2862 in Senate Business and Professions Committee because the measure includes unreasonable, infeasible and enormously costly provisions that would put pet stores out of business.
- 4) To ensure that your calls are received prior to the hearing, call starting on Monday, August 7 and complete calls no later than Wednesday, August 10.

Thank you for your participation.