

SENATE ACTION ON HJR 11

April 11, 2013 -

SENATE REJECTS ATTEMPT TO DENY BALLOT INITIATIVES ON ANIMAL WELFARE

Your Calls and Emails are Making a Difference

In a stunning turn of events, the Missouri Senate fought back an attempt to take away the right of citizens to vote on animal welfare issues which was contained in HJR 11. After passing the House overwhelmingly, agribusiness leaders thought they had won the day and many puppy millers were looking forward to a repeal of the Canine Cruelty Prevention Act as they thought that the public would no longer be able to have a say in how they care for their dogs.

Thanks to the efforts of the Senate, especially Senators John Lamping, Scott Sifton, Paul LeVota, Rob Schaaf and Jamilah Nasheed, an amendment was added to HJR 11 stripping away language that would deny citizens the right to vote on ballot initiatives on animal welfare issues. The Amendment to HJR 11 still guarantees the rights of individuals to farm, as if there was a need for such a right, but it also safeguards the right for ballot initiatives to protect animals in puppy mills and in agriculture and it also protects the rights of counties and local municipalities to control factory farms.

We want to thank each and every one of you that wrote, emailed, and called your state senator on this matter. Your efforts made all the difference in the world for the animals.

Our hard work on this issue, however, is far from over. Since the Senate version of HJR 11 is drastically different from the House version of this resolution, HJR 11 now goes to a legislative conference committee that can either accept the amendment or reject it. If it is rejected, HJR 11 will come back to the Senate to be voted on one more time. So we need you to once again contact your state senator and thank him/her for supporting the amendment, as it was supported by the Senate as a whole, and request their continual opposition to any measure to take away the right of citizens to vote on a ballot initiative on animal welfare concerns if HJR 11 returns to the Senate.

Thanks again for your efforts and please continue to support the animals through your calls and emails to your state senator.