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September 10, 2012

COPY

William Kuntz, Executive Director
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
920 Colorado
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Kuntz:

I understand that as of September 1, 2012 the Dog or Cat Breeders Act has taken effect, requiring those who breed dogs or cats to obtain a license from the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, and that the Act has a unique statutory provision for this agency allowing for donations to the "Dog or Cat Breeder Training and Enforcement Account." I am told that the program is falling far short of sufficient funding due to few licenses being issued, and that the Department or its advisory board may be considering the pursuit and use of donated funds as a significant source for this program.

The implications of this approach to funding are a great cause of concern. If the program is to continue, it must be supported by licensing income in a manner that does not punish registrants or raise the appearance of potential bias. Reliance on donations for the program's survival to any degree is not acceptable.

I appreciate the work that the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation does and look forward to continuing to work together with you. Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Carona".

John Carona
Chairman, Senate Committee on Business and Commerce

JJC/ac