



A 501c3 Non-Profit Animal Welfare Organization

P. O. Box 730, Charlotte, MI 48813
www.voiceless-mi.org

Senate Agriculture Committee
Senator Joseph Hune, Chairman
State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30026
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

May 22, 2016

Honorable Committee and Chairman:

As a Michigan resident and Vice President of Voiceless-Michigan, a 501c3 non-profit animal welfare organization, I support SB 403 to require humane euthanasia of our shelter pets.

In addition to animal rescue, we also provide spay/neuter subsidy programs to low income families who otherwise could not afford it. We believe in reducing the homeless pet population through spay/neuter programs. *We also strongly promote the humane treatment of animals.* Webster defines euthanasia as "death in a painless way for reasons of mercy." Death by gassing is a slow, suffocating death and that cannot be considered merciful.

EBI (Euthanasia By Injection) is more efficient and more effective. Gas chambers often cannot be used on old, sick or injured animals with circulatory conditions that delay the effects of carbon monoxide. Similarly, very young animals also have physical characteristics that also make a humane death impossible in a gas chamber. It causes the animal significant distress and panic prior to losing consciousness.

I know many of you ask why we are broaching this subject when earlier this year the last county in Michigan closed its gas chamber. The answer is simple – we need to ensure Michigan residents that gas chambers are a thing of the past. And not a part of the Pure Michigan future.

Do you believe Michiganders and your constituents want a humane and dignified death for animals? If so, I hope we can count on your vote of YES to ban gas chambers in Michigan. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Beth Contreras
Vice President, Voiceless-MI