



**House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2447
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Monday, March 13, 2023

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2447, which would prohibit local units of government from banning the sale of products that are legal within the state of Kansas.

In recent years, we have seen cities across the country take the extreme approach to regulate consumer activity by banning items such as gas-powered lawnmowers and fur clothing. But we do not have to look outside of our state border to see how this power of local governments can go too far. This last fall, the City of Wichita Animal Services Advisory Board recommended to the City Council to ban the sale of dogs and cats from stores inside city limits (news article included below). So we could have a situation where pet stores would be forced to close their doors in Wichita but could, with great expense, move to Andover and sell these pets to families without problem. Included with our testimony is a news article on the most recent efforts in Wichita.

Regulating perfectly legal consumer products puts businesses in a position where they could have no other option but to close their doors while a competitor in the adjacent county would be able to continue business operations. If consumers feel puppies and kittens, or gas-powered lawn mowers sold at retail are a threat to society, let them be the ones to make that decision and choose alternative outlets rather than banning certain behavior.

In closing, we urge this committee to support House Bill 2447, to protect Kansas businesses from overzealous governments who seek to restrict consumer behavior through ineffective and burdensome regulations. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of this bill, and I'd be happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.

Board recommends ban on commercial sale of dogs and cats in Wichita, sending it to city council

Thursday, July 21st 2022, 8:50 AM CDT

Updated: Friday, July 22nd 2022, 9:24 AM CDT

written by **KAKE News**



Humane Society of the United States

WICHITA, Kan. (KAKE) - The Wichita Animal Services Advisory Board has voted to have the Wichita Police Department look into an ordinance to crack down on certain pet shops.

Members voted 4-3 on Wednesday to recommend the department draft an ordinance that would prohibit retailers in the city, like Petland, from selling dogs and cats. Any such ordinance would have to be approved by the Wichita City Council.

Supporters of the ban have said that Petland and other stores get their animals from puppy mills. However, Petland says it works only with legitimate breeders and is committed to making sure everything it does is above board.

[7 Kansas puppy mills included in humane society's 'Horrible Hundred' report](https://www.kake.com/story/46561179/7-kansas-puppy-mills-included-in-humane-societys-horrible-hundred-report) ([//www.kake.com/story/46561179/7-kansas-puppy-mills-included-in-humane-societys-horrible-hundred-report](https://www.kake.com/story/46561179/7-kansas-puppy-mills-included-in-humane-societys-horrible-hundred-report))

Petland East manager Lydia Secondine told the board during its [meeting in May](https://www.kake.com/story/46525554/wasab-considers-vote-to-ban-petland-animal-sales-in-wichita) (<https://www.kake.com/story/46525554/wasab-considers-vote-to-ban-petland-animal-sales-in-wichita>) that banning retail stores from selling the animals will only make the problem worse.

"I think it should absolutely be the right of a retail store to be able to offer, you know, puppies and kittens for families that come from 100% licensed and registered breeders with the highest standards. And that's absolutely what Petland aims to do," she said.