



168 West State Street • Trenton, New Jersey • 609-393-7163 • Fax 609-599-1209

March 14, 2007

TO: Assembly members

FROM: Rich Nieuwenhuis, president

Re: A-2649 animal cruelty bill (Van Drew)

New Jersey Farm Bureau has been working closely with Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew on Assembly Bill No. 2649 concerning animal cruelty. Having a system in place to treat all livestock animals under the same standards is critical to the sustainability and growth of animal agriculture in the state. It is what Farm Bureau testified about before the Assembly Agriculture Committee in June and what we were encouraged to see in the bill as amended on January 8th.

However, floor amendments approved on January 29th did create the potential for conflicting standards to be developed. You may have heard from some of your farmer constituents about those amendments in the bill. Since then we have joined Ag Secretary Charles Kuperus and the NJDA and have met with Assemblyman Van Drew to resolve our concerns.

We understand that there may be further amendments coming to the floor in the future to resolve the differences about what procedures and standards are to be used when investigating the rare instances of animal cruelty/neglect of livestock animals. We support the Secretary of Agriculture and the role of NJDA in those investigations and agree with bill language that recognizes the Department's involvement and use of NJDA standards and procedures for livestock investigations.

Farm Bureau will continue to work with Assemblyman Van Drew and we will keep you informed of our progress when amendments are introduced. Thank you for your attention. Ed Wengryn of our staff (609-393-7163) is the contact person here on this bill.

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cc. Secretary Kuperus