SASHA FARM

Sanctuary And Safe Haven for Animals

Testimony in Opposition to HB 4503-4506
House Committee on Agriculture
By Amanda Hitt of SASHA Farm
April 13, 2011

Dear Chairman Daley and members of the committee:

We represent SASHA Farm - the Sanctuary and Safe Haven for Animals located in Manchester, MI. We are writing today to respectfully urge your opposition to House Bills 4503, 4504, 4505, and 4506. As Michigan residents living in an agricultural community, we have serious concerns over the damage these bills could cause.

Feral pigs are already a problem in Michigan – so much so that the DNR has practically declared an open season on them by labeling them an invasive species. It just does not make sense to allow these ranches to breed these animals to be shot in fenced enclosures when the wild populations are already out of control. These facilities stock their animals so customers can have a guaranteed kill – eliminating any sport from the activity. Escapes from these facilities have obviously already been occurring, or Michigan wouldn't have feral pigs roaming around. Fencing has not been able to contain these animals in the past, both in Michigan and in other states – so why in the world would we believe that they will work now?

SASHA Farm has already been called by several homeowners in Washtenaw County asking us to humanely remove feral swine from their properties. We've witnessed the incredible damage a group of feral swine can do to landscaping, crops and even building foundations with their natural rooting behavior. Feral swine sightings, once seemingly rumor or legend, are now common in our area, and once these populations are established, they are very difficult to eradicate humanely.

For the reasons previously stated, we ask you to please oppose HB 4503, 4504, 4505, and 4506. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Davies
Director
SASHA Farm

Amanda Hitt
Operations Manager
SASHA Farm

P.O. Box 222
Manchester, MI 48158

Website: www.sashafarm.org

734-428-9617
E-mail: info@sashafarm.org