NATIONAL ANIMAL INTEREST ALLIANCE

Supporting the people who care for America's animals

Michigan House Local Government Committee

September 2, 2016

Letter in support of SB 239

I am writing on behalf of the National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA), a broad-based animal welfare organization founded in 1991 to provide fact-based answers to complex and controversial issues regarding animals. We are dedicated to securing high standards of animal care and treatment; and to preserving the human-animal bond. Our members are pet owners, hobby breeders, rescuers and animal professionals, scientists and veterinarians.

I am writing to ask you to vote yes to SB 239, the bill that would put an end to unnecessary breed specific laws in Michigan. NAIA Trust supports laws that punish irresponsible owners, and restrict ownership of dangerous dogs irrespective of breed or type. The public will be better protected by laws that hold ANY dog owner responsible for bad behavior, regardless of breed. Arbitrarily restricting dog ownership by breed or type does nothing for public safety. Breed specific laws are being overturned across the country as they have demonstrated time and time again to be costly, nearly impossible to enforce, and incredibly ineffective in protecting the public.

As Americans, we enjoy freedom in choosing what type of car to drive, what kind of house to buy, and should also enjoy the freedom to choose what type of dog to own. SB 239 will protect a person's property rights in their interest to responsibly own the breed or type of dog of their choice. Ownership should be conditional upon behavior and responsibility of the owner, not predicated on the breed of dog. Punishing or restricting the freedoms of an innocent majority due to the misdeeds of few is not the American way.

Please vote yes on SB 239.

Sincerely,

Sara Chisnell
Legislative Director
National Animal Interest Alliance

National Animal Interest Alliance, PO Box 66579, Portland, OR 97290 www.naiaonline.org Sara.chisnell@naiatrust.org (269)251-2419