



To the Senate Agriculture Committee,

I would like to introduce myself and explain why I am opposing SF 4280/HF 4166, that exempts ZAA-accredited facilities from Minnesota's regulated animal law. My name is Tim Harrison and I am a Retired Police Officer/Firefighter/EMT-Paramedic for the City of Oakwood (Dayton, Ohio), currently I am an Adjunct Instructor for TEEX/ National Emergency Response and Recovery Training Center at Disaster City (EOTC) Texas A&M University, and Director of a nonprofit organization, Outreach for Animals. Outreach for Animals was started by law enforcement officers, firefighters/EMT-paramedics, animal control officers, ER physicians, veterinarians, lawyers and pediatric physicians to "teach proper behavior around wildlife" and support public safety for man and animal. I am considered an expert in public safety as well as a Human/Animal Advocate, in that order. I save people and animals when a natural or manmade disaster occurs. I responded to the Zanesville Tragedy where a private owner released 56 of the most dangerous predators into the county/city of Zanesville (38-African Lions, Tigers, Leopards and Mountain Lions, with the rest being Grizzly/Black Bears, assorted primates (some with Hepatitis B virus and other zoonotic diseases) and wolves). 49 of the released predators had to be shot and killed (no easy task).

My organization has become nationally known as the "go to" group when dangerous wild/exotic animals escape, get turned loose by their owners, or attack a human. We safely rescue both the humans and the animals. I personally have been involved in this work for over 47 years and during that time I have learned what organizations are helping, and which ones are causing the problems we have dealt with. I have helped develop legislation in many states and cities to assist and protect the public, first responders and the animals. The current national legislation, The Big Cat Public Safety Act, is just one of them. Through all the years I have tried to protect the public and the animals, the organization, ZAA, has battled to stop any legislation. Sheriff Travis of Pike County, Ohio had his Deputies respond to 2 African Lions that had escaped their private owner and was attacking cars on a busy state route. He summed it up perfectly with his now famous quote "You have to have tags for your dog, but you do not have to have anything for a lion...huh?" This incident put the public and first responders in grave danger (you can watch this story on our award winning documentary, "The Elephant in the Living Room" currently free on Youtube). The ZAA does not want any legislation to stop their breeding of cubs for entertainment purposes (millions of dollars), or keep private, untrained owners from buying them as "pets" (more money). Their flagship breeding "zoo's", Tanganyika Wildlife Park Goddard, Kansas, SSP paperwork tells the truth about their breeding unchecked of endangered big cat cubs every year. Just do the math, where are the adult tigers, snow leopards, etc. Some of the endangered cats go to magicians. If you want to know about this "zoo" watch the our new documentary, "The Conservation Game" also now free for government officials to watch on Youtube, and see why the AZA (the credentialing association for zoos and aquariums) say everything in the documentary is true and support the film. That is a big reason why the Columbus Zoo lost their accreditation because they were using ZAA affiliated facilities as "vendors" for endangered big cat cubs. Please investigate, clarify and then verify before allowing an organization that has been sinking major zoos into your state. Thank you and please stay safe.

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