



## ANOKA COUNTY ATTORNEY

**BRAD JOHNSON**

JUSTICE & LEADERSHIP

**March 18, 2025**

Senator Ron Latz  
Chair, Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee  
3105 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**VIA E-MAIL ONLY**

**Re: Support for SF 1163 / HF 1816 Office of Animal Protection Establishment  
and Appropriation**

Dear Chair Latz and Senators,

I write to support the legislation in SF 1163 and HF 1816, which would establish an Office of Animal Protection in Minnesota. Local law enforcement and prosecutors across Minnesota need this resource to be able to investigate incidents of animal cruelty skillfully, to provide proper care for animals in distress, and to aid in seeking justice in our criminal justice system.

I fully agree with Anoka County Sheriff Brad Wise and his statement that animal cruelty cases are complex and require a multi-disciplinary approach by justice partners, no different than cases involving child pornography, sex trafficking, and other complex crimes. The State of Minnesota needs to enhance its ability to handle animal cruelty incidents. We have seen how these crimes harm not only animals, but also people and our communities too.

Our constituents expect us not only to respond to these incidents, but also for that response to be prompt, proficient, and compassionate. An appropriately supported and organized Office of Animal Protection will promote both public confidence and public safety. Your work here will help us better protect our citizens and the animals in their care.

Sincerely,

Brad Johnson