

November 2, 2005

Senator Arlen Specter
US Senate
Washington, DC

OPPOSE SB1139-PAWS

Dear Senator Specter,

The **American Rabbit Breeders Association** opposes SB1139/HR 2669, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute. Our board of directors determined that this bill will harm our **30,000** members across the United States. There are currently about **900,000** rabbits and cavies (guinea pigs) shown by our members. This number does not include the number of rabbits and cavies that are shown by 4-H and FFA members as part of their project requirements.

PAWS will federalize the breeding of home-raised rabbits and cavies. This proposed bill is a fundamental change to the Animal Welfare Act where rabbits and cavies are already covered. Most rabbit and cavy fanciers/exhibitors participate in the activity as a wholesome, family project and sell few animals to pet stores. Few fanciers will result in the loss of valuable genetic diversity of rabbits and cavies. It is unreasonable to expect regulations made for large commercial dog operations to also regulate rabbit and cavy fanciers/exhibitors as the bill is now written.

We urge you to review this bill in the present form and to consider the impact on rabbits and cavies. Should you require any further information or statistics, please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Glen Carr at 309-664-7500.

Sincerely,

Cindy Wickizer
President