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- Christine A. Dorchak, Esq.
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- Carter J. Luke
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- Wayne Pacelle
Humane Society of the United
States
- Susan F. Schwab, Treasurer

Official Endorsers

- Cape Cod Times
- MetroWest Daily News
- New Bedford Standard Times
- Springfield Republican
- Blue Mass Group
- American Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- Animal Rescue League of Boston
- Animal Control Officers
Association of Massachusetts
- National Greyhound Adoption
Program
- Massachusetts Animal Coalition
- Massachusetts Council of Churches
- Baypath Humane Society
- Buddy Dog Humane Society
- Berkshire Humane Society
- Cape Ann Animal Aid
- Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane
Society
- Lowell Humane Society
- MetroWest Humane Society
- Milford Humane Society
- Milton Animal Rescue League
- Northeast Animal Shelter
- Quincy Animal Shelter
- Scituate Animal Shelter
- South Shore Humane Society
- Sterling Animal Shelter
- Taunton Animal Shelter
- Worcester Animal Rescue League

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Co-Chairperson, Committee to Protect Dogs

In reference to: Greyhound Protection Act delay, S. 2041

Presented to: Joint Committee on Economic Development &
Emerging Technologies

Date: September 10, 2009

My name is Christine Dorchak and I was the author of Question 3. The Greyhound Protection Act was approved in 12 of 14 counties, and in nearly 300 of 351 cities and towns. It passed in 114 House Districts and 28 Senate Districts. By any measure, the voters of Massachusetts overwhelmingly supported the end of pari-mutuel dog racing.

Here with me today are Kara Holmquist, Director of Advocacy for the MSPCA and Carey Theil, Executive Director of GREY2K USA. Each of us will provide you with testimony concerning a particular aspect of our campaign.

It is my role today to explain to you the thought that went into the writing of the ballot question.

1. The Greyhound Protection Act was written as a 14-month phase-out of dog racing.
 - a. To provide time for workers to transition out
 - b. To allow humane groups to absorb greyhounds as they are surrendered.
 - c. Although we knew dogs would pay a price in terms of continuing to suffer injuries, we believed, and still believe that this was the fair approach.

2. The Committee to Protect Dogs has worked with the Governor's office and in the legislature to prompt job retraining and financial assistance for racetrack workers.
 - a. Rapid Response, a federal program, was made available the morning after the November 4 election. The program manager is Ken Messina and he may be reached at 617-626-5703. The latest information we have is that few workers have applied for funding.
 - b. HB 1856 was filed at the request of Question 3 proponents to provide further worker support. The bill transfers state funds now made available to the dog track owners and puts them in the hands of transitioning workers.

VOTE FOR THE DOGS – YES ON 3

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Thank you for your attention to my testimony. Let me finish by adding that it is our belief and respectful request that the legislature honor the will of the people. The initiative process was created in 1918 to allow citizens to have a direct voice in the laws which govern them. As many of us learned, obtaining a place on the ballot is an arduous task, involving not only the gathering of over one hundred fifty thousand signatures, but the sorting and delivery of these signatures first to town clerks, then to the Secretary of State, in a dual certification process. And all of this is preceded by a rigorous legal examination of the question by the Attorney General.

To conclude, the thousand of people who volunteered for this campaign earned their place on the ballot, fought hard to educate voters with the facts about dog racing, and gave their hearts and hands to reach November's victory. I ask that you honor their work, and uphold the strong vote of people statewide, and reject Senate 2041.