

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

WILLIAM M. STANLEY
20TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ALL OF HENRY AND PATRICK COUNTIES; ALL OF
THE CITIES OF GALAX AND MARTINSVILLE; PART
OF CARROLL, FRANKLIN, HALIFAX, AND
PITTSYLVANIA COUNTIES; AND PART OF THE
CITY OF DANVILLE

P. O. Box 96
GLADE HILL, VA 24092



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
JUDICIARY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

June 21, 2022

Kevin Shea
Administrator
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dear Mr. Shea:

As legislators elected to represent Virginians in the General Assembly, we are gravely concerned about the fate of more than 3,000 beagles who remain at Envigo's operation in Cumberland, Virginia, which has announced that it will close. This past legislative session, we introduced and passed—**unanimously in both chambers**—five bills designed to protect the dogs at this facility and hold the company accountable for its ongoing and persistent violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

As repeatedly documented by U.S. Department of Agriculture inspectors and other federal agents, thousands of beagle dogs and puppies at Envigo have been subjected to unlawful and inhumane conditions since at least July 2021. Despite not having been compliant with the basic and minimal requirements of the AWA for almost a year now, Envigo has asked that the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia allow it to continue engaging in regulated activity and sell these animals in commerce. **We urge the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to exercise its authority to suspend the applicable Envigo licenses (certificates 32-A-0774 and 23-R-0187) for 21 days and expedite enforcement actions to prevent this illegally operated facility from conducting any further regulated activity.**

Most recently, in executing a search warrant at the facility last month—which led to the seizure of 446 dogs in “acute distress”—agents from the U.S. Department of Justice and other federal agencies along with other law-enforcement officials found dogs “crammed” into severely crowded enclosures while other enclosures remained empty. Cages contained only one food receptacle for as many as nine dogs, leading to resource guarding and fights. Puppies were so parched that they “raced” to drink water once it was offered. An inspector found two neonate puppies inside food receptacles and a beagle with one ear. A veterinarian found many dogs with severe dental disease, severe inflammation of paw pads that had become red and swollen, missing toes, infected puncture wounds, and a “shredded” ear as well as underweight nursing mother dogs and more. As of a June 8 inspection, conditions for dogs and puppies continued to be inhumane and unlawful.

7 U.S. Code § 2149 (a) allows you to suspend Envigo's license for 21 days. **We urge you to do so immediately as a first step toward protecting these animals from further suffering.**

Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Sincerely,



Sen. William M. Stanley Jr.
Senate District 20



Sen. Jennifer B. Boysko
Senate District 33

Del. Robert B. Bell
House District 58



Del. Dawn M. Adams
House District 68

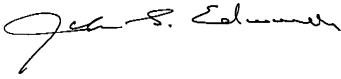


Sen. John J. Bell
Senate District 13

Del. Elizabeth B. Bennett-Parker
House District 45



Sen. Creigh Deeds
Senate District 25



Sen. John S. Edwards
Senate District 21

Sen. Barbara Favola
Senate District 31

Del. Hyland F. Fowler Jr.
House District 55



Del. Elizabeth R. Guzman
House District 31



Sen. Ghazala F. Hashmi
Senate District 10

Del. C. E. Hayes Jr.
House District 77



Del. Patrick A. Hope
House District 47



Del. Sally L. Hudson
House District 57

Del. Kaye Kory
House District 38

Sen. Lynwood W. Lewis Jr.

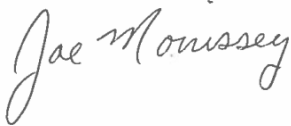
Senate District 6

Sen. L. Louise Lucas

Senate District 18

Del. Michelle Lopes Maldonado

House District 50



Sen. Joseph D. Morrissey

Senate District 16



Del. Sam Rasoul

House District 11



Del. Irene Shin

House District 86



Del. Mark Sickles

House District 43

Del. Shelly A. Simonds

House District 94

Sen. Lionell Spruill Sr.

Senate District 5



Del. Suhas Subramanyam

House District 87

Del. Kimberly A. Taylor

House District 63

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wren Williams", is positioned above the printed name.

Del. Wren Williams

House District 9

Del. Angelia Williams Graves

House District 90