



February 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Spay-Neuter Project to express support for House File 208 and Senate File 73.

The Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project, Inc. (MSNP) was founded on the conviction that the only way to end pet overpopulation problem is to stop the flow at its source — by preventing unwanted litters. Each pair of non-sterilized dogs or cats can produce an average of 3 to 4 offspring per litter (by conservative estimates), resulting in an overwhelming number of dogs and cats in just a few years.

With the introduction of the Trap-Neuter-Release programs in the 1970s, stray and feral cats are now given a chance at life. It's an improvement over extermination, and a step in the right direction. But TNR is not a good long-term solution to the problems associated with cat colonies.

Cat colonies exist because unknowing people allow their cats outside without supervision thinking they are safe. Unfortunately, cats may wander too far and become lost and never find their way back home. Our organization works to educate cat owners about safe ways to allow a cat outdoors.

We support the Companion Animal Board bill because we believe cat colonies are a problem in many communities. This new board will be able to lead discussions on this issue, helping cat owners, neighborhoods and local governments find constructive solutions to the problem. By having expertise with companion animals and networking with nonprofits and others, the Companion Animal Board will be able to educate the public statewide and help coordinate services and resources.

We're excited by what the Companion Animal Board can and will do — for the welfare of companion animals and the needs of communities.

We respectfully ask for your support of the Companion Animal Board bill, HF 208 / SF 73.

Thank you,
Carolyn A. Schmidt (chair) and Frieda Wilson (Secretary Treasurer)
Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project, Inc.
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cc: Representative Esther Agbaje
Senator Bobby Joe Champion