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The Honorable Mark Leno
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, California 95814
Attention: Mr. Chuck Nicol, Committee Consultant

Via Facsimile: (916) 319-2181

and to:

Mr. Chris Ryan
Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
State Capitol, Room 6031
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via Facsimile: (916) 319-3560

Re: Opposition to AB 1634 as Amended in Business and Professions Committee on April 24th

Dear Chairman Leno and Mr. Ryan:

The Doberman Pincher Club of America (DPCA) is the parent club for the breed to the American Kennel Club (AKC). The DPCA is organized as a charitable organization under Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3). Our three charitable purposes are (1) humane rescue; (2) medical and health research for our breed; and (3) public education about our breed and responsible dog ownership.

We request inclusion of the DPCA in the list of opposition to AB 1634, as amended in the Assembly Business and Professions Committee on April 24th, in the bill analysis for the following reasons:

- The approach taken in AB 1634 places blame for shelter relinquishments in California on responsible and committed dog breeders and owners. Purebred dog breeders have nothing about which to feel defensive. Purebred dog breeders provide an intrinsically significant positive effect on society in the United States.
- Data from the California Department of Health Services, Veterinary Public Health Section shows that intake and euthanasia rates for dogs in California have been falling steadily for decades. Euthanasia rates of dogs are down a whopping 86% from the mid 1970s. At the same time, the human population in California has increased by 52% since 1980.

Studies show that 24% of dogs relinquished by owners were relinquished for the express purpose of being euthanized. 70% were mixed breeds. It must be assumed that the vast majority of mutts are not intentionally bred. Owners of these dogs are not a rational target of the proposal. 42.1% of dogs relinquished were already altered. These dogs would not be a target of the breeding license proposal.

- San Diego and several other cities considered mandated castration and forced hysterectomies and rejected that draconian approach for their communities. They chose instead to encourage responsible ownership to further reduce shelter relinquishments. AB 1634 essentially tells these local officials that their judgment is impaired, and that they are compelled to implement mandated castration and forced hysterectomies of pets in their communities despite their previous rejection of that approach.
- AB 1634 does not address the health considerations associated with mandated castration and forced hysterectomies of animals at an early age, especially affecting the long-term health of working breeds or any dog (purebred or mixed breed) that participates in working or athletic events.
- AB 1634 will hurt California financially. AB 1634 would decrease revenue to California as this bill drives out home hobby breeders. There are 1395 AKC-approved events conducted in California. A two day show brings from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 into each supporting city every year.

AB 1634 should be entirely scrapped in favor of a different approach that attempts to reward responsible dog ownership and provides financial incentives for others to become responsible. This approach, which brings responsible dog owners into the solution to reducing shelter relinquishments, is far superior, as a matter of public policy, to the simplistic approach advocated by the proponents of AB1634. Such a cooperative effort can do much more than target 6% of the dogs relinquished in shelters in California, as the studies show AB 1634 would target, at best.

Cordially,

Jeffrey P. Helsdon
Delegate to the American Kennel Club and
Legislative Director
Doberman Pinscher Club of America