



February 15, 2022

Michigan House of Representatives
Committee on Tax Policy
Via Email: esleeper@house.mi.gov

RE: HB 5683 Relating to the Sales and Use Tax on qualified pet food

Chair Hall, Majority Vice-Chair Tisdell, Minority Vice-Chair Yancey, and members of the House Committee on Tax Policy:

Best Friends Animal Society is a leading national animal welfare organization dedicated to ending the killing of cats and dogs in America's shelters. On behalf of Best Friends and our many supporters throughout the State of Michigan, we urge the strong support of members of the House Committee on Tax Policy for HB 5683.

This important legislation is a wonderful start to provide some economic relief for the thousands of pet owners throughout the State. Providing economic relief, no matter how small the amount, for families with pets will help to keep Michigan families together. Many Michiganders have suffered economic distress over the past years for various and numerous reasons. A recent survey from the American Pet Products Association revealed that 67% of U.S. households have at least one pet. This represents an increase of almost 7% over the last 20 years. Most of these households state that their pets are members of the family.

While there may be a decrease in tax revenue for the State that comes from this legislation, it will allow households in Michigan to redirect those funds into other needed sources for their families which may be of need as well. The benefits of this legislation will be felt throughout the State for years to come.

We urge your strong support for HB 5683 in committee and ask that you urge your colleagues in the House to support this important legislation as it hopefully makes its way toward passage. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important bill.

Respectfully

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