



April 14, 2017

Dear Committee on Personnel and Animal Welfare,

I am writing in strong **OPPOSITION** to agenda item #16-1357. Please include this letter into public record to be included in any hearing, studies, and or reports pertaining to this issue.

My name is Fess Reynolds and for 30 plus years I have been in the business of training animals, domestic and exotic, in the entertainment Industry. I have spent my life training and caring for animals. I strongly OPPOSE this agenda item.

First off, the public has been selectively misinformed about animals in the entertainment Industry. Extremists have spent a lot of time and money persuading the public to believe that all animals are mistreated or unhappy. If you spend any time at all with an animal and its trainer, you will see the bond that exists between them.

We all have the same goal: to make sure that animals are healthy, happy, well socialized, and safe. The regular inspections from USDA and Fish and Wildlife ensure the safety and welfare of animals used for the entertainment industry. Agenda item #16-1357 simply denies people from experiencing any hands on or close-up animal encounters that can possibly lead to the next generation of animal caretakers and conservationists.

This agenda will create a community where animals are out of sight, out of mind. It will ban the very experience that sparked people's passion for animals in the first place. We need our communities to co-exist with these specially trained animals so that the passion to preserve their species and habitat doesn't die. This agenda item is the wrong path to protecting animal welfare and helping exotic species. Please consider what you do when you ban these animals.

Sincerely,

Fess Reynolds  
Exotic Animal Trainer  
Member of Local # 399