



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

OPPOSITION to agenda item #16-1357: *Please incorporate this letter into public record to be included in any hearing, studies, and or reports pertaining to this issue*

1 message

Francesca De Wied <fdewied@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 14, 2017 at 2:02 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org, David.ryu@lacity.org, Paul.koretz@lacity.org

Dear sirs,

My name is Francesca de Wied and I am writing to you in opposition of the proposed bill titled "Prohibition on the Exhibit of Wild or Exotic Animals for Entertainment or Amusement" (agenda item #16-1357). It is my understanding that this bill's aim is to shut down disreputable organizations that do not take animal welfare into consideration; I say this because it targets all organizations that are not AZA accredited. However, lack of accreditation with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums does not necessarily equate with low standards of care or lack of conservation and education initiatives. There are many valuable educational programs in LA county that would non longer exist if this bill were to pass.

Educational outreach programs are essential to exposing the public (especially young children and teenagers) to the unique creatures we share the planet with. The programs teach about the struggles animals are facing in the wild, and the ecological roles these animals play in their habitats that are irreplaceable. Having those up-close encounters provides the greatest incentive for members of the public to really care about wildlife and practice conservation at home. Today these educational resources are needed more than ever.

This bill does not provide the right solution to your concerns when it comes to the health and safety of exotic animals or whether or not organizations are providing educational messages and materials.

1) It will decrease the amount of educational programs available to teach about wildlife and habitat conservation.

2) It will harm wild populations because the public will have fewer opportunities to learn about them, and therefore support for conservation projects meant to help stabilize wildlife numbers and protect their natural environment will plateau.

If you truly are concerned for the welfare of animals under human care, perhaps you should consider a system of inspection for non-accredited facilities. You can create a way to implement welfare regulations and ensure they are followed. This way you will weed out any facilities that are mistreating their animal ambassadors without putting the work of good, non-accredited organizations in jeopardy.

As a final note, I would like to thank you very much for the time you took to read this letter. I am a senior student at OSU who has been involved with the zoological community for several years, and I've been volunteering with an AZA accredited facility for a full year. I have, and continue to dedicate my studies and career to the care of wildlife, public education, and conservation. I share this to illustrate my commitment to the wellbeing of all animals, and to communicate that my opposition to this bill is not unfounded. Thank you again for your consideration, and please vote no on agenda item #16-1357.

Sincerely,
Francesca de Wied
fdewied@gmail.com