



## **King County**

**Agriculture Commission  
Water and Land Resources Division  
Department of Natural Resources and Parks**

### **King Street Center**

201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855  
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March 3, 2010

King County Councilmember Julia Patterson  
Chair, King County Board of Health  
516 3rd Ave, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

To the Honorable Councilmember Patterson:

### **Re: legislation related to regulation of feed stores selling chicks**

We, the King County Agriculture Commission, are writing this letter to comment on the legislation related to regulation of pet related businesses. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this legislation. The Agriculture Commission is an advisory board to the Executive and Council made up of citizens that represent various sectors of the agriculture industry. The current commissioners have expertise related to poultry, dairy and beef cattle, equine, sheep, goats, beekeeping, crop farming and berries.

The Commission understands, acknowledges and respects the authority of the Health Department to regulate activities in order to protect human health. However, after much discussion we have decided that in this instance we unanimously support the complete exemption of feed stores that sell chicks and livestock auctions from the regulation of pet related businesses. The Commission is concerned that the Health Department is regulating poultry, which are considered and regulated as livestock by the State of Washington. As livestock, the sale of chicks should not be regulated by this code.

There is a very small profit margin on chicks and they are a small component of most feed stores' business. The permit fee and related inspections will have the result of causing these feed stores to discontinue their sale of chicks. This would be a disservice to King County farmers and residents who look for the opportunity to raise chickens for a variety of uses. It would take away from the agricultural character of the county and further remove people from the opportunity to experience the benefits of raising poultry. As a Commission, we have worked to make the connection between agriculture and King County residents. Further, this permit fee is a resource that takes away from the livelihood of the business owner.

We were disappointed that we did not know about this legislation prior to the King County Board of Health meeting where it was acted on. The follow up public meeting,

Councilmember Patterson

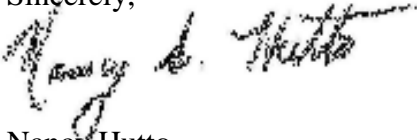
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held in Seattle in mid-afternoon, was also a challenge for agricultural supporters to attend.

We urge you to leave the current exemption for feed stores and livestock auctions in place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Hutto". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nancy Hutto

Chair, King County Agriculture Commission

cc: Councilmember Reagan Dunn, King County Council – District 9  
Councilmember Kathy Lambert, King County Council – District 3  
Barbara Wright, Assistant Division Director, Seattle/King County Health Department  
Maria Wood, King County Board of Health Administrator  
George Irwin, Vice Chair, King County Agriculture Commission  
Josh Monaghan, Agriculture Program Lead, King Conservation District  
Joanna Richey, Assistant Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division  
(WLRD), Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)  
Sandy Kilroy, Manager, Rural and Regional Services Section, WLRD, DNRP  
Rick Reinlasoder, Livestock Program Specialist, WLRD, DNRP