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The Stouffer Report: *Protecting Missouri from HSUS Scam*

We have the opportunity to stop some very bad laws from going on the books in Missouri. It is an uphill battle, but one I believe we can win.

I am handling [House Joint Resolution 86](#) in the Missouri Senate. The proposal would ask Missourians to vote on a ballot measure that would limit the creation of laws that keep folks from being able to raise animals. This resolution stems from recent actions taken by the [Humane Society of the United States](#) (HSUS). They are using their name to trick folks into giving them \$19 a month, in the name of saving dogs and cats around their hometown. What folks may not realize is the bulk of those donations are used for lobbying efforts and do nothing to save stray animals.

The concern about HJR 86 has been over puppy mills. For starters, there is no such legal term as "puppy mill." This is a word that was invented by animal rights activists to define all dog breeders. There are standards animal breeders are asked to keep. Those that do not maintain these standards are breaking the law. So, folks to claim this resolution is useless because it does nothing to stop puppy mills are missing the point, which is, illegal dog breeding operations are already against the law.

What we need is the ability to go after those who run illegal breeding operations. If the HSUS used

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the \$19 they get in donations and put aside a percentage of the money to fight the real crimes, then we could make great strides in stopping breeders from breaking the law. But this is not happening. The [Missouri Department of Agriculture](#) is the agency that keeps after illegal breeders. But, they are strapped for cash and do not have the people or the resources to handle everything they are required to do in a given year. This is one the setbacks of a bad economy. We already have some of the toughest laws against illegal dog breeding operations in the country. We simply lack the funding to enforce these laws right now.



If the HSUS gets its way, no one would be able to farm, because raising any animal for any purpose would be against the law. They have already done this in a few states and the results have been devastating.

What we are trying to do in the Missouri General Assembly is make sure our rural way of life is protected from these big-city, out-of-state folks who come in, tug at citizens' heartstrings, take your money and leave you with laws that make no sense at all. Keep in mind, HJR 86 would let you decide at the polls this November how we address this situation. All of us should play a role in doing what is right for rural Missouri.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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