

# ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS



*Ontario Conservation Centre*

P.O. Box 2800, 4601 Guthrie Drive, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8L5  
Phone: (705) 748.6324 • Fax: (705) 748.9577 • Visit: [www.ofah.org](http://www.ofah.org) • Email: [ofah@ofah.org](mailto:ofah@ofah.org)

OFAH FILE: 450/790AC  
April 12, 2016

Dear Liberal Members of Parliament:

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), our 100,000 members, supporters and subscribers, and our 735 member clubs across Ontario, we are writing again to express our profound concerns over Bill C-246.

Like all reasonable Canadians, the animal use community has repeatedly demonstrated that we support sensible legislation and regulations that address neglect and acts of cruelty to animals, but do not threaten lawful, regulated activities such as fishing, hunting, trapping, farming, medical research and Halal and Kosher killing. In 2008, the OFAH and the animal use community worked diligently to pass former Liberal Senator John Bryden's Bill S-203, which increased the fines and penalties for animal cruelty, and provided the courts with a choice of different options on how to proceed with charges. Last year, we were pleased to support Bill C-35 that addressed cruelty to service animals, but did not impact negatively on legitimate animal uses. In 2002, the OFAH supported provincial legislation, Bill 129, The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, which increased fines and penalties against puppy mill operators.

You may recall that we previously wrote to you on this issue on March 1, shortly after Bill C-246 was introduced. We are pleased to provide you with a more recent letter sent to one of your caucus colleagues, and her timely response, which she has authorized us to share with you. Also attached is a comprehensive comparison of the changes proposed by Bill C-246 versus the current Criminal Code. The bill contains provisions that are virtually identical to Bill C-50, which was blocked twice by a Liberal dominated Senate.

Based on our analysis of the bill, a review of the legislation by our legal counsel and our experience with 18 similar bills previously before Parliament, we are extremely concerned about the potential harm that could be caused to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal anglers, hunters, trappers, farmers, medical researchers, fairs and exhibitions, the Jewish community and others if Bill C-246 passes. Those concerns have been raised consistently over the years, including in regard to Bill C-50, which the author cites as the source of many of the proposed changes in his bill. Despite the repeated contention that Bill C-246 would not impact on legal, regulated activities like hunting and fishing, the OFAH and the animal use communities across Canada, who are opposed to the bill, do not agree.

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS

April 12, 2016

Page Two

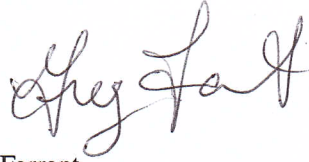
If Bill C-246 was as innocuous as the author suggests, and does nothing more than address issues related to shark finning and the sale of dog and cat fur, we would not be having this discussion. We have heard from several members of the Liberal caucus who oppose passage of Bill C-246 at Second Reading, and we respectfully ask that you do the same.

Thank you again for your time and consideration in this matter.

Yours in Conservation,



Angelo Lombardo  
Executive Director



Greg Farrant  
Manager, Government Affairs & Policy

AL/GF/gh  
Attach.

cc: OFAH Board of Directors  
Matt DeMille, OFAH Manager, Fish & Wildlife Services