

2008 LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING AND LOBBYING COMPETITION PROBLEM

You are a lobbyist for the Coalition to Protect Companion Animals, a national organization with 150,000 members, whose mission is to advance protections for companion animals through litigation, legislation, and public education campaigns. The Coalition's efforts include public education and outreach to encourage adoption, rather than the breeding and purchase, of companion animals; state and federal advocacy to promote animal protection legislation; and litigation to help combat abuses regularly associated with pet stores.

The Coalition's executive director tells you to develop the case for and introduce a federal bill to increase enforcement of Animal Welfare Act violations the U.S. You are instructed to:

1. Draft a bill deciding the appropriate language as an amendment to the Animal Welfare Act, 7 U.S.C. §§ 2131-59, (deciding which section(s) to amend) including:
 - a. citizen suit provisions;
 - b. enforcement provisions; and,
 - c. other amendments as necessary to properly regulate puppy mills and pet stores.
2. Create a one-page fact sheet for your bill; and,
3. Approach members for their sponsorship, cosponsorship, and their votes.

The length of the bill is discretionary, but 1-5 pages is appropriate.

Inclusion of "findings" at the beginning of the bill is also discretionary. Findings are included to be persuasive, but they are sometimes attacked by legislators and opponents of a bill.

Your bill number is designated by Congress H.R. 324.

You must submit a draft of your bill and fact sheet by email to Laura Ireland Moore at lireland@lclark.edu by March 31, 2008 at midnight in the competitor's time zone. You will be lobbying for your bill on April 5, 2008.

For assistance, visit the links provided on the competitions website for background information, sample fact sheets, and tips for lobbying.

LOBBYING ROUNDS

ROUND 1

ROOM Stuart 223 – *You are meeting with the Representative to ask her to introduce your bill.*

REPRESENTATIVE DORIS SCOTTISH (D-PA) – A moderate Democrat with a very strong pro-animal and human rights record, Rep. Scottish’s district is heavily suburban, with some urban areas and she is a senior member of the Commerce Committee. Her family purchased a dog from a pet store who suffered from a number of health ailments, and nearly died three years ago. As a result of this experience, she has become an outspoken advocate for more restrictions on dog breeding and shelter adoptions. Since that time, she has also been outspoken against the large number of puppy mills in her state. Her district includes Lancaster County which is home to over two-hundred kennels and large breeding operations. The Coalition has 100 members in her district and enjoys a positive relationship with her. Representative Scottish’s daughter became a volunteer at the local humane society and joined your organization as a student member.

Scottish has never been the lead on an animal protection bill before, but has 100% voting record on the Humane Scorecard (a publication produced by The Humane Society of the United States ranking members according to their votes and cosponsorship). She is well-respected among her peers for her congeniality and her passionate oratory style, as well as for her ability to organize her party around critical votes. She went to Trinity College in Washington D.C. where she roomed with and became best friends with Nancy Pelloni, now the Speaker of the House. They are delighted to be serving in Congress together.

Background information for your meeting: You have already spoken with the Chief of Staff for Republican Representative James Durgan, a pro-animal legislator in his first term representing an urban district of Washington state, and he is interested in being the Republican lead with Representative Scottish as the Democratic lead, if she will agree to be the primary lead and to do most of the legwork on the bill (gathering cosponsors, lobbying the chair for a hearing, organizing a briefing, etc). Representative Durgan’s district is home to the West Coast’s largest dog show. He has taken a personal interest in the issue after adopting a Lhasa Apso who was used as a breeding dog in a puppy mill. He also sits on the Agriculture Committee. You have learned that he is a close personal friend of Representative Billy Neckred (D-MN), chair of the House Agriculture Committee, and they frequently take quail hunting trips in Texas together.

Your goal for the meeting with Rep. Scottish: You are seeking her commitment to be the primary Democratic sponsor of your bill.

Round 2

ROOM Stuart 323 – *You are meeting with a Representative to ask her to cosponsor your bill.*

At this stage, H.R. 324, the Scottish-Durgan bill, has been introduced and you now have 40 cosponsors in the House and 10 in the Senate. You need to build your cosponsor list to get the bill ready for committee and floor action.

REPRESENTATIVE SUSAN SUGARMAN (R-MI): From the 1ST district of Missouri, an extremely rural district with several agricultural industries, Rep. Sugarman is a moderate Republican with many donors from the agriculture community. Some industry leaders have been vocal about animal rights groups who are trying to shut down their businesses, and a few puppy mills have been targets of the Coalitions' efforts. A number of puppy mills in Missouri have had dogs released by activists over the last five years. You have attempted to secure the support, or at least the neutrality, of the state Department of Agriculture, but have not been able to obtain a meeting with them yet.

You do have a strong advocate for your cause in the state's Republican party leadership, Mr. Foghorn, who sits on your board and who has provided tremendous financial support to the Republican party and to Rep. Sugarman. He holds lavish fundraising events for her in St. Louis where he advocates for animal adoption and always has someone from your group attending and handing out fact sheets about puppy mills and pet stores. He is a former veterinarian and has strong relationships with others in the Veterinary Caucus. He also is a bit of an eccentric, with many rescued animals living in his own home with him and his wife. His wife is from an elite and wealthy family in the state and they own many of the major newspapers in the state. Rep. Sugarman has aspirations to run for an open Senate seat in the next election cycle, so she is in intense campaign mode and is looking for positive press – especially in the more urban areas of her state.

You are seeking her cosponsorship of H.R. 324 and have secured a 10 minute personal meeting with the Representative through Mr. Foghorn, who will not be able to attend.

Round 3

ROOM Stuart 324– *You are meeting with the chair of the House Agriculture Committee to ask for a hearing on your bill and allow a vote out of committee.*

At this stage, your bill has been introduced and has 252 cosponsors in the House and 48 in the Senate, but has not had a hearing.

Representative Billy Neckred (D-AL): The chairman of the House Agriculture Committee is a known adversary of your organization. He is generally offended by any organization that wants to promote animal protection and reacts defensively to legislation that “elevates animals over people,” as he often will tell the press. His rural Alabama district is one where you have 81 members but you have a good relationship with the local newspaper (the editor of the *Huntsville Times* is one of your biggest supporters). Rep. Neckred has often cited information from the Center for Consumer Freedom’s website when your bills come up, claiming that animal protection groups are extremist and are connected to terrorism. The Chairman is a very religious person who respects Christian conservative values and he is known for his primary political agenda of protecting the agriculture industry and corporate interests. You are well aware, given his past hostilities to your organization, that this meeting will be difficult, but you hope to neutralize his concerns enough that he will allow the bill to pass, even if you cannot win his support. While he and Representative Scottish have differing views, they are fairly good friends and he seems to be very fond of her, so you have hope he will be interested in helping the bill for her sake, if not for his own reasons.

Your goal: You are asking Rep. Neckred to give your bill a fair hearing and allow a vote out of the House Agriculture Committee.

FINAL ROUND

ROOM L101 (Moot Court)-*You are requesting a “yes” vote on the floor from a legislator who has not yet signed on to your bill.*

At this stage, your bill has been introduced and has 252 cosponsors in the House and 48 in the Senate, but the Chair in each committee is not willing to move the bill. You know you need to bypass the committee structure if you wish to pass your legislation.

Your research indicates that the government provides federal money for inspectors at large breeding operations through the Agriculture Appropriations bill. This money pays for inspections conducted by USDA inspectors for sanitation and health. Without such funding, no breeding facilities may be licensed or operate.

The House Agriculture Appropriations bill is coming to the floor next week and you are going to attempt to convert your bill to an amendment to the appropriations bill to be offered on the House floor using this language: *“No funds provided in this Act may be used for -----.”*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THIS LEGISLATOR WILL BE PROVIDED BEFORE THE FINAL ROUND OF THE COMPETITION.