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BILL STANLEY
VIRGINIA SENATE

To Freedom's Last Chance

June 7, 2013

Good evening:

I apologize for not being able to attend the 2nd Annual Fur Ball due to other commitments.

I want to thank all of you for your continued support of this most noble cause. Since being formed in 2008, Freedom's Last Chance has provided a unique and vital service to our community, and for its pets. In tough economic times such as these, this organization serves as a pet food pantry for the owners of cats and dogs who are struggling financially, so that these pets may continue to live in their homes without fear of relinquishment or abandonment. Moreover, it continues to provide rescue and health care services to animals in need that would otherwise go neglected.

Virginia's public animal shelter system is broken and in need of serious reform. As a result, too many beautiful creatures are not given a chance at life and a happy, loving home. Too often, abandoned or stray dogs and cats are euthanized because our state shelter system cannot, or will not, take the time to provide the basic care for them that they so deserve. And in many instances, public shelters refuse to work with private groups such as Freedom's Last Chance to reduce or even eliminate kill rates, and to facilitate adoption of these animals to caring homes.

It was an honor and privilege to assist Freedom's Last Chance at its inception, and I pledge to continue to support this very worthy cause. To that end, I will be proposing significant legislation in the 2014 General Assembly to reform Virginia's public animal shelters so that we can one day say that the Commonwealth of Virginia is a "No Kill" state. I ask for your support in getting this legislation passed next year.

Again, thank you for all you do for defending these animals that cannot defend themselves. Have a great night, and God Bless you for your dedication to serving the Lord's most precious creatures.

Warmest regards,



William M. Stanley