

December 9, 2009

The Honorable Micah Kellner
834 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Assembly Member Kellner,

I am the Executive Director of the SPCA of Tompkins County near Ithaca, New York and I am writing in support of Oreo's Law.

In 2002, we spearheaded the nation's first No Kill community. In 2004, we built the nation's first "green" shelter certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. For each of the last seven years, we have saved a higher percentage of animals than virtually every other community in the nation. Our success is the community's success and central to that has been our relationship with the rescue community. In fact, last May, I did a workshop on this very issue at the national No Kill Conference in Washington D.C.—which attracted attendees from over thirty states and six nations.

When we began our No Kill initiative, one of the first things we established is a vibrant rescue group network. While some of the rescue groups were local, many were not only based across New York State, but across the country. We are amazed at the broad support we've received from all of these groups, but frankly, we were mystified that they were willing to make the drive when they had shelters in their own community. When asked why they rescued from us rather than their local shelter, the answer was always the same: "*our local shelter refuses to work with rescue groups.*" Oreo's Law would change that, and potentially save thousands of animals in the process. You have our unqualified support.

Sincerely,



Abigail Smith