**Email Subject: Input for [*Insert Bill Number*] From a [*state*] Professional Dog Trainer**

As a [*state*] resident and professional dog trainer [or dog behavior consultant] for [# years], I would like to offer my views on [*insert bill or law number/name*]. I also want to express my support for legislation that requires state licensure of dog trainers and that incorporates established evidence-based and humane standards for those who train dogs.

[*If you have a brief personal story to share that illustrates the need for the state to adopt and enforce dog trainer qualification and conduct standards, please share it here.*]

Dog owners in [*state*] seeking professional dog training or behavior consulting face a “buyer beware” system that puts them, their dogs, and other members of the public at potential risk of harm. Although reputable private dog training credentialing organizations promote competence, safety, and evidence-based humane methods for certified dog trainers, these certifying bodies lack the legal authority and resources that state licensing boards have to enforce standards for quality and conduct, which are critical to ensuring animal, personal, and public safety.  What’s more, many dog owners are both unfamiliar with these credentials and have insufficient knowledge about the standards of practice adopted by the certifying bodies.

Animal mistreatment laws currently in effect unfortunately cannot undo the stress, trauma, and behavioral problems that result from substandard training. In my opinion, the solution is to enact professional dog trainer licensing to protect consumer and animal welfare. The Alliance for Professionalism in Dog Training, a coalition of our industry’s credentialing and membership organizations, has worked with members of our profession to draft model legislation that meets the needs of the dog owning public and their animals. The legislation, which can be found at [www.prodogtraineralliance.org](http://www.prodogtraineralliance.org/), would establish a state Dog Trainer Licensure Board to ensure that all practicing dog trainers meet recognized standards of knowledge, skills, and experience, have formally committed to humane, evidence-based, and safe training practices, and engage in ethical business dealings.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration. I can be reached [here] if you would like additional insight from a member of the dog training community.

[Your Signature and Credentials]