

We are here tonight because first I left several messages and sent emails and never received any response back. We need you to change your vote and support the Clinton County Dog Tether Law. Legislator Timmons is voting the tether law down at the county because he says Peru is against the law. He also said if you change your vote, he will change his vote at the county, which would give us enough votes to have the public hearing we were denied in November, and to possibly pass the countywide law as well.

Currently under NY state Ag and Market law if a dog has food, shelter, and water it can be chained up indefinitely, really for its entire life, and some dogs live this way. This means that if you as the town board say you believe the current law is working just fine, you are saying you are okay with a dog being chained up 24/7. I can't understand how anyone would think its okay to leave a dog chained up outside 24/7.

This is more than just about the dogs, and being humane. Dogs that get chained up for long periods of time, get bored and become aggressive. Chained dogs become public safety threats. Small children can approach a chained dog thinking its friendly, and that child can easily then get attacked. Innocent people just walking by can also get injured when tethered dogs break off their chain and attack. Chained dogs are associated with illegal drug sale and use, illegal gambling, illegal firearms, and dog fighting. These dogs are involved with major crime that I'm sure you do not want in your county or your town.

We are fighting for a countywide dog tether law for all of these reasons, but also because the Clinton County Sheriff very strongly supports the tether law, but says he and his deputies cannot enforce 17 separate town laws. He needs one law for all to follow.

When you and the other towns were surveyed back in April, you were given the Essex County law only to review, and six towns voted no law needed; that list includes Peru. You hadn't even looked at our proposed law yet. Two towns voted keep the law at the town level, and six towns, also the city of Plattsburgh, and three villages, all voted for a countywide law. The towns that voted for a countywide law represent the true majority of citizens in the county who support the law, that's 51,000 people, while only 15,000 people are against it, and that's basing this solely as town supervisors representing their towns. There's no way 15,000 people in this county want to see dogs chained outside 24/7.

The law we are proposing and you have in front of you is a "supervised tethering law", meaning people can only chain a dog outside if they are supervising the dog. It's easy to enforce and does not set a time limit on the number of hours a dog can be chained outside. It only needs to be supervised.

We need you to put some real thought into this and to please change your vote. There are dogs chained up all over Altona, Ellenberg and Mooers, in the towns that have fought us the most. These dogs have horrible lives, chained to cinder blocks and trees, living in uninsulated dog houses, under porches, their living conditions are horrible, and the town supervisors simply don't want to be bothered to deal with it. We need to create a tether law to help these dogs in the towns that need it the most.

Currently there are more than 320 cities and counties with tether laws in place all over the country. 23 states have tether laws in place, and those are entire states with statewide tether laws in place. Some communities have had tether laws in place for 17 years. Our very own Essex County, just one county down from us, has had their law in place 8 years already. Clearly we are very behind here in Clinton County.

In November the Clinton County Legislature denied its citizens a public hearing, for the first time ever, and that's just not right. Please change your vote so we can have our public hearing and allow the public to have their voice and say on the Clinton county dog tether law. We need your vote. Thank you for your time.