



PETER COURTNEY
President of the Senate

Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senator Betsy Close, Vice-Chair
Senator Jackie Dingfelder
Senator Arnie Roblan
Senator Jeff Kruse

TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY
SUPPORTING SB 6
MARCH 25, 2013

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Close, members of the committee: thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Peter Courtney. I live in NE Salem. I am a state Senator for District 11 which includes Woodburn, Gervais, and east Salem.

I love animals. I have a soft spot in my heart for them. I've done a number of animal welfare bills over the years: puppy mills, cock fighting, chicken cage standards.

You can imagine -- when I read the Oregonian on January 14, 2013, that 149 dogs had been found starving to death in a warehouse in Brooks, I went a little crazy.

The Oregonian read, "Police described a harrowing scene: They encountered 149 dogs, some of them starving. Others' eyes were sealed shut with bodily fluids. Their cages weren't lined with bedding. As many as five dogs were kept in kennels designed for one. The stench was overwhelming. Waste ran down from one crate perched atop many others, to pool on the concrete floor."

It turned out that neighbors had complained and reported suspicious activity to the police for months, but they didn't have enough evidence for a warrant.

The Oregonian reported these animals may never make it to the adoption process.

The Portland Humane Society -- who took in ALL 149 dogs -- told me it could be an entire year before these dogs would be legally ready for adoption.

The following day, I told my staff I wanted to do a bill that cracks down on these criminals, allows police to get in the door sooner, and gets these animals into loving homes faster. That is the bill before you today.





