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**Date:** February 6, 2015

**To:** **House Committee on Business and Labor**  
Rep. Paul Holvey, Chair

**From:** Sharon Harmon  
Executive Director, Oregon Humane Society

**Re:** House Bill 2765

Established in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society is the state's largest and oldest animal welfare organization with over 50,000 supporters statewide. We are not affiliated with any local or national organization. **We are here today to ask for your support of HB 2765.**

Oregon is one of only 11 states where the practice of racing greyhounds for entertainment and profit remains legal.

Each year, thousands of greyhound dogs are bred in order to produce the small percentage of greyhounds with the potential to become successful racing dogs. Those dogs that do become racing dogs spend the bulk of their lives cruelly confined in wire cages so small they cannot stand erect. When briefly removed from the confines of these cages to race, these dogs are subject to injuries such as broken limbs, broken necks, cardiac arrest, and head injuries. It is not unusual for dogs to die while being transported across the country in overcrowded conditions to the few remaining racetracks in the United States.

After a few years of this painful and hopeless lifestyle (18 months to 5 years on average) – *if* they have survived - they are no longer useful to their owners as racers. The average lifespan of a non-racing greyhound is 13 years. What happens to them after they can no longer race? What happens to the thousands of puppies born that did not prove to be racing stock? Only the fastest dogs make it to the track - most of these healthy dogs are euthanized.

Without the amendments presented in HB 2765, Oregon continues to endorse the cruel treatment and exploitation of these graceful and lovely dogs. Although Oregon currently has no active dog racing facility, the potential still exists for this outdated and inhumane practice to gain a foothold here again - unless you choose to vote yes for HB 2765.

We encourage you to stand with 39 other states and ensure that Oregon will no longer support the cruel treatment of greyhound racing dogs.

**Please vote yes HB 2765.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Harmon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sharon Harmon  
Executive Director  
Oregon Humane Society  
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