



PETER COURTNEY
President of the Senate

Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair

Senator Jeff Kruse, Vice Chair

Senator Ginny Burdick

Senator Sara Gelser

Senator Kim Thatcher

TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY

SUPPORTING SB 4

MARCH 4, 2015

Chair Floyd Prozanski, Vice Chair Jeff Kruse, members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Peter Courtney. I am a State Senator. I live in NE Salem.

I've come before you today to support Senate Bill 4. This measure modifies SB 6, which I sponsored in 2013, to clarify that an animal rescue entity has legal custody of animals they locate off site.

I am very proud of the 2013 bill we passed. It protects animals by cracking down on fraudulent animal rescue organizations. Last year, it was brought to my attention that this bill had a loophole. One that animal abusers could use to skirt the law and hurt animals. By 'fostering' animals off site, these less than reputable animal rescues could deny responsibility of these animals. They would not be responsible for abuse or neglect of animals they placed in foster homes. SB 4 simply adds a legal responsibility for all animals in a rescues care, even those they are housing off site.

I've brought with me today Marion County Commissioner Janet Carlson, who brought this loophole to my attention; along with Tamra Goettsch, Director of the Marion County Community Services Department. Bruce Armstrong, Marion County Legal Counsel, and Allison Barrows, Shelter Operations Manager for Marion County Dog Services, are also here to answer any of your technical questions.

Thank you, Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Kruse, and members of the Judiciary Committee for hearing my testimony today.