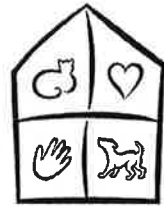


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Date: May 11, 2015

To: **Senate Committee on Business and Transportation**
Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
Senator Fred Girod, Vice-Chair

From: Sharon Harmon
Executive Director, Oregon Humane Society

Re: **HB 2687A with the 2/4 amendments**

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 for your support of enhanced protections for dogs traveling unprotected in open vehicles.**

One of the qualities we value in our canine companions is their ability to find joy in something as simple as a ride in the car. Unfortunately, this routine activity can have dire consequences for dogs and for motorists if the dog is not securely contained in or on the vehicle.

Traveling unsecured in an open truck is dangerous for the dogs and the cars following this accident waiting to happen. Dogs can jump out or fall from moving vehicles. High temperatures can heat the metal bed of a truck hot enough to make dogs escape for relief. The statistics for human fatalities from crashes involving animals are even more concerning. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that from 2004 to 2013, there were 2,002 deaths resulting from motor vehicle collisions with animals. 20 of those deaths occurred in Oregon. Another IIHS study analyzing fatalities in animal-related crashes found that of those accidents analyzed, 6 percent of the fatal crashes involved dogs. Many of these crashes result not from hitting the animal, but from motorists swerving to avoid hitting the animal.

The beds of trucks are designed to carry cargo, not animals. They are not designed to offer protection in a crash or prevent a canine passenger from jumping out or being ejected. Open truck beds offer no barrier between a protective dog's fearful bite and people entering and

exiting their cars in parking lots. Whether upon highways, on residential streets, or parked in a public area, dogs and humans can be protected by the safe containment of dogs in vehicles.

Current law is vague, the consequences minimal and out of step with the values of Oregonians.

Please vote yes on HB 2687A with the 2/4 amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Harmon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sharon" being more prominent than the last name "Harmon".

Sharon Harmon
Executive Director, Oregon Humane Society
sharon@oregonhumane.org
(503) 416-2992

Attachment: Photos attached