

Dear Chair Beyer and members of the Committee:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States and our Oregon members and supporters, I am writing in opposition to HB 3212.

This legislation sends the wrong message and sets a bad precedent for agriculture and animal welfare in Oregon. Our state has a long and proud history of passing laws to improve the lives of all animals, including farm animals raised for food. In 2007, Oregon passed a law to ensure that pregnant sows are not confined in cruel gestation crates, and in 2011, Oregon passed a law to improve conditions for egg-laying hens. These bills were supported by broad majorities that reflect the humane values of most Oregonians. Taken to its logical extreme, HB 3212 could have the effect of virtually nullifying those laws, and preventing consideration of similar laws in the future.

The state must maintain the ability to regulate certain types of practices for the betterment of a community, the citizens, or society in general. The people of Oregon should not be required to pay corporations, businesses, or an industry to stop practices that the legislature or government agencies find harmful. This legislation not only requires compensation for stopping harmful practices, but essentially discourages government officials from stopping those practices if money is not available.

If individuals, corporations, or businesses are engaging in practices that are so harmful that the legislature or government agencies feel compelled to stop or regulate them, the taxpayer should not be forced to pay the person engaging in those practices to cease or not engage in the offending practice. Instead, we should be supporting appropriate and balanced legislative and regulatory action when necessary to protect the environment, animals, communities, and the citizens of Oregon.

For these reasons, The HSUS is strongly opposed to HB 3212, and we urge you to vote NO.

Thank you for considering our position.

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The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization, rated [most effective](#) by our peers. For 60 years, we have celebrated the protection of all animals and confronted all forms of cruelty. We are the nation's largest provider of [hands-on services](#) for animals, caring for more than 100,000 animals each year, and we prevent cruelty to millions more through our [advocacy campaigns](#).

The HSUS is approved by the [Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance](#) for all 20 standards for charity accountability, and was named by [Worth Magazine](#) as one of the 10 most fiscally responsible charities. To support The HSUS, please make a [monthly donation](#), or give in [another way](#). You can also [volunteer](#) for The HSUS, and see our [55 ways you can help animals](#). Read more about our 60 years of [transformational change](#) for animals, and visit us online at humanesociety.org.