



HUMANE | OREGON

8508 SE 11TH AVE.
PORTLAND, OR 97202
503.946.1534
INFO@HUMANEOREGON.ORG
WWW.HUMANEOREGON.ORG

Testimony of Brian Posewitz on Behalf of Humane Oregon
House Bill 3212 – Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

June 3, 2015

Chair Beyer and members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Posewitz. I am here today representing Humane Oregon. Humane Oregon was formed last year to help advocate for humane treatment of animals through participation in Oregon's political process and elections.

Humane Oregon has concerns about the potential impacts of House Bill 3212. Through a series of definitions, the bill would require government to pay a property owner for any reduction in property value resulting from a new law or rule "regulating a farming practice." Farming practices would include, through a cross-reference to ORS 30.930, practices related to raising "livestock" and "poultry."

We appreciate the desire to protect traditional farming practices. However, we worry that an effect of this bill – perhaps an unintended one – would be to prevent future reasonable measures to improve conditions for farm animals. We can't say now what those measures might be, and we don't have anything in particular in mind. However, we believe there is a changing social consciousness around the treatment of farm animals and that laws and rules in that regard – laws and rules that most people would not consider "land use" regulations – should remain open to change. Creating a possible government obligation to pay financial compensation for any such change could have a chilling if not prohibitive effect on what might otherwise be widely accepted reforms to improve the lives of farm animals.

Humane Oregon therefore urges you not to pass HB 3212 or to narrow the bill to exclude laws and rules to protect animal welfare.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I would be happy to answer any questions.