



**PET INDUSTRY JOINT
ADVISORY COUNCIL**
1615 Duke Street, Suite 100
Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel: 202-452-1525

TESTIMONY OF PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL
BEFORE THE OREGON HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ON HOUSE BILL 3429

April 13, 2017

As an organization that routinely supports legislative efforts to advance the welfare of animals the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) appreciates the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 3429, “relating to wildlife trafficking prevention program; creating new provisions; amending ORS 498.022 and declaring an emergency.”

As a general proposition, PIJAC does not oppose the rational regulation of dangerous, potentially invasive, or endangered animals. Indeed, we do not view dangerous wild animals as pets. As the largest pet industry trade association in the world, representing those involved in the breeding, acquisition, transport and care of companion animals, PIJAC has participated in legislative efforts throughout the United States to place appropriate restraints on those who may seek to possess dangerous animals. We would seek nothing more here.

PIJAC has a policy of supporting reasonable restrictions on wild animals where necessary to protect the public health and safety. We caution, however, that these should be carefully crafted to ensure they are not over-inclusive and that they do not have the effect of actually working against the intended purpose of the measure. We find that well-intentioned proposals frequently carry unintended consequences, and would respectfully offer the following observations in response to the legislation under consideration.

The definition of “covered animal species” including the animals listed in Appendix I and II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and animals listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List can be construed as a broad definition as some species under Appendix II are captive raised aquatic species that are kept as pets. PIJAC requests that for these reasons, the definition of “covered animal species” be further clarified to species listed under this section that are listed in Appendix I of CITES. Additionally, the IUCN is not a government entity and should be removed as an acceptable listing of “covered animal species.”

Furthermore, the list of “covered animal species” provided in HB 3429 includes rays and sharks which are not species, but rather genera. Various species of the genera rays and sharks are commonly found in the aquatic trade such as cat sharks, horn sharks, skates, and blue spotted rays. Further clarification of the species list is needed in order for the bill to be effective without being overreaching.

Again, PIJAC does not oppose regulation of dangerous, potentially invasive, or endangered animals, as provided by this bill. We recognize that this is well-intentioned legislation. But we respectfully urge the committee to be judicious in its consideration of the various provisions of the bill that we have cited as cause for concern. Should the sponsor, or this committee, desire input from the pet trade in revising certain provisions of the bill, PIJAC would be pleased to provide whatever assistance is requested.

PIJAC appreciates and thanks the committee for its due consideration of our remarks.

Sincerely,

Robert Likins III
Vice President of Government Affairs
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC)