



Date: April 13, 2017

To: **House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**
Representative Brian Clem, Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Vice-Chair
Representative Sherrie Sprenger, Vice-Chair
Representative Greg Barreto
Representative Sal Esquivel
Representative Caddy McKeown
Representative Karin Power
Representative David Brock Smith
Representative Brad Witt

From: **Sharon Harmon**
CEO, Oregon Humane Society

Re: **House Bill 3429**

Established in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society (OHS) 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 writing today to ask you to oppose HB 3429.**

Last November, 69% of Oregon voters passed one of the strongest state-level measures in the country to combat wildlife trafficking. This proposed law flies in the face of the strong stance Oregon voters took on this issue and leads to further endangerment of at risk species for purposes that do not outweigh the risk of extinction.

By adding in arbitrary qualifications to protection, this bill effectively proposes the use of more enforcement resources for the protection of less species. In order to successfully uphold this law, for example, officers in Oregon would have to somehow distinguish between hundreds of species of sharks and rays in order to determine if the law affords protection. With the roadblocks to enforcement created by this proposed law, Oregon will likely become known to wildlife traffickers as the weak point on the West Coast just mere months after boasting one of the strongest state-level measures in the country to address wildlife trafficking.

The process by which an animal gains acknowledgement on the protected lists referenced in this bill is inefficient, lengthy, and often times unable to appreciate the truly precarious status of an at-risk species. The inclusion of this administrative process should not be the deciding factor as

to what populations are left to fend for themselves against the cruel and illegal practice of wildlife trafficking. Please, stand with 69% of Oregon voters and preserve the original language of Measure 100 by voting **NO on HB 3429**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Harmon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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