



**HUMANE | OREGON**

---

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

Testimony of Humane Oregon on House Concurrent Resolution 16 (2017)  
House Committee on Rules

April 26, 2017

Chair Williamson, Vice Chair McLane, Vice Chair Rayfield, and members of the Committee:

Humane Oregon is a bi-partisan, non-profit organization formed in 2014 to help advocate for animal welfare in Oregon's political process and elections. We are a moderate but progressive animal welfare organization, with board members from many different places within Oregon's animal welfare community.

Humane Oregon supports HCR 16. Choosing the rescued shelter dog as the state dog would encourage people to provide homes for homeless dogs. It would also recognize and honor all the great work by local humane societies and shelters in Oregon, and all the big-hearted people who already have adopted dogs from shelters.

Making the shelter dog the state dog also would answer the charge that naming a state dog is a triviality that distracts from the real work of the Legislature. By encouraging Oregonians to adopt dogs from shelters, the Legislature would be helping to reduce the cost of government, and the burdens on taxpayers, by reducing demands for space and animal care at county animal control facilities.

Oregon would not be the first state to see the wisdom in this. Last year, a Republican-led effort made the "adoptable dog" the state dog of Georgia. In 2015, California made the "shelter pet" its official state pet. In 2013, Colorado declared its state pet to be: "dogs and cats that are adopted from Colorado animal shelters and rescues."<sup>1</sup> In each of these instances, lawmakers explained their decision as a way to help educate the public about the need for pet adoption and responsible pet ownership.

Oregon should use this opportunity to do more than create a symbol. Oregon should use the opportunity to honor its already great pet adoption practices, to educate Oregonians about pet adoption, and to encourage more Oregonians to get their dogs from shelters, which will save both dogs and money from taxpayers.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz  
Board Member/Administrator  
[brianp@humaneoregon.org](mailto:brianp@humaneoregon.org); 503-946-1534

---

<sup>1</sup> These are the ones we know about. There may be other examples.