

Dear Chair Williamson, Co-Chairs Rayfield and McLane, and Committee Members:

I am a professional, certified dog trainer and also the proud adopter of 2 rescued dogs. I am writing to urge you to vote YES on HCR 16, the bill designating the rescued shelter dog as the official state dog of Oregon.

For the past 10 years, I have worked with numerous Shelter dogs of all different breeds, ages, colors and backgrounds. I've seen them become loving family pets, agility champions, service dogs, running companions and emotional support dogs. That is why I support naming shelter dogs as the state dog, rather than one particular breed. The bill highlights the resilient and forgiving nature of our canine companions. Whether they suffered abuse and neglect, or belonged to someone who truly was no longer able to provide for them, they have the ability to overcome their past and become devoted, lovable companions.

HCR 16 is also an acknowledgement of the thankless work performed every day by Oregon's animal shelter professionals. Having volunteered in several shelters myself, I know that the staff are compassionate, caring people with big hearts and gentle hands, who put the needs of the animals they care for above their own every single day. They deserve to have their efforts rewarded with this kind of official recognition.

For these reasons, I hope you will vote YES on HCR 16. My rescued shelter dogs, Tsavo and Luna agree (they are pictured below).

Thank you for your service to the people of Oregon.

Shawn Kay

Portland, OR

