



Date: February 12, 2018

To: **House Committee on Judiciary**
Representative Jeff Barker, Chair
Representative Andy Olson, Vice-Chair
House Democratic Leader Jennifer Williamson, Vice-Chair
Representative Chris Gorsek
Representative Mitch Greenlick
Representative Bill Post
Representative Karin Power
Representative Tawna Sanchez
House Assistant Republican Leader Sherrie Sprenger
Representative Duane Stark
Representative A. Richard Vial

From: **Emily Davidsohn**
Staff Attorney, Oregon Humane Society

Re: **House Bill 4050**

Established in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society 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 here today to ask for your support of HB 4050.**

In 2017 the Investigations Department at the Oregon Humane Society received more reports of cockfighting than in the previous seven years. While this may be attributed to a broader awareness of the crime, it nonetheless supports the proposition to strengthen the laws against this “sport” in meaningful ways that are likely to deter individuals from engaging in this activity in our state.

Currently Oregon’s “Participation in Cockfighting” (167.431) statute specifically *excludes* the manufacture and sale of gaffs, slashers, or other sharp implements designed to be attached to a fighting bird, while the “Cockfighting” statute (167.428) includes that conduct. The inclusion of equipment that is used to enhance the fighting ability of a bird in one statute and the manufacture of specific equipment that is used to enhance the fighting ability of a bird (i.e. gaffs, slashers, etc) in a different statute unnecessarily creates the potential for misinterpretation, thus weakening both laws.

House Bill 4050, in addition to removing ambiguity between the two cockfighting statutes (ORS 167.428 and ORS 167.431), will ensure that cockfighters are held accountable for both the crime of actively engaging in the specific conduct of animal fighting *and* for engaging in activities that perpetuate or enable the crime of cockfighting; these should be separate and distinct offenses.

We urge you to **vote yes on HB 4050**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Davidsohn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emily Davidsohn
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