

Betty Patton  
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Portland, OR 97213

12 February 2018

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Representative Brian Clem, Chair

Re: HB 4045

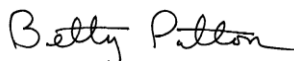
Dear Committee Chair Clem, and Representatives McLain, Sprenger, Barreto, Esquivel, McKeown, Salinas, Smith and Witt:

I would like to express my support for HB 4045, the legislation that prohibits pet stores from selling dogs unless sourced from an animal shelter or rescue. Dogs and puppies born and raised in a puppy mill environment often suffer from illnesses that are not treated and they live in conditions that animal loving Oregonians would not want to support. We have more than an adequate supply of healthy, loved and well-cared-for pets from good breeders, rescue organizations and shelters. I would like our state to support caring and humane sources for our pets and play a part in stopping these unethical puppy mill businesses.

Removing the puppy mills as a source for pets in Oregon is a good business decision. The majority of pet stores operating in our state are already dedicated to humane practices for pet sources. This legislation guarantees that same level of care for all pet store sources in our state.

The American Pet Products Association found that in 2016, pet owners in the US were expected to spend about \$62.75 billion on their pets. This shows a strong customer base for pet store owners without having to engage in inhumane sourcing of the animals.

I sincerely thank you for considering a legislative approach to the care and humane treatment of our pets.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Patton".

Betty Patton