



Date: February 13, 2018

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

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

Re: **House Bill 4045**

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 here today in support of HB 4045.**

The Oregon Legislature took a strong stance with regard to dog breeders when they passed the "Puppy Mill Bill" in 2009, establishing standards and restrictions that made it difficult for inhumane puppy mills to continue to operate in the state. House Bill 4045 offers the Legislature a chance to further crack down on the business of cruel puppy mills while simultaneously supporting the effort of animal rescues to find homes for needy animals.

Oregon is a national example of the impact animal rescues can have on the issue of homeless animals. The progress made within our own state has allowed us to reach out both to neighboring states and states across the county in an effort to continue finding placement for needy animals; sadly there is yet to be shortage of displaced animals. This bill sends a clear message of support to those individuals who work tirelessly on behalf of the animals that need them most.

As the influx of animals from other states increases, so does the need for oversight of the organizations who are overseeing their care. As with any vulnerable population there is risk of

exploitation and, unfortunately, a number of individuals have found a way to profit off of the dog and cat overpopulation challenge not the least of which is withholding medical care or proper nutrition. In 2013, safeguards were built into Oregon law through Senate Bill 6 and the licensing and record keeping requirements for rescue entities. Just as Oregon requires puppy mills to keep certain records, so does the law require animal rescues to keep extensive records. In order to continue to protect animals from those who see them for their profit value over their intrinsic value HB 4045 should also require these rescues to be licensed in their county of operation.

This bill has potential and could make a significant positive impact on animals, even beyond Oregon's borders. We would love the opportunity to offer amendments to further strengthen this bill and add to Oregon's legacy of protecting the voiceless.

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
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