



3/19/19

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

Re: Letter for Consideration in Opposition to HB 2804

Critter Cabana, a pet store in downtown Newberg, is a significant contributor to the revitalization of our downtown.

When we initiated our Main Street revitalization strategy 10 years ago Critter Cabana was one of the downtown businesses that was viable. Brittani Johnson, owner and store manager, was on our founding board of directors and she and the store played a major role in launching our Main Street effort.

When the store suffered fire and smoke damage from an adjacent building fire, the entire community rallied to raise over \$10,000 to assist the effected businesses. The pets from the store were major attractors to the community fund raising event. Children donated the contents of their entire piggy banks to assist Critter Cabana repair fire damage.

Located in the heart of our business district, Critter Cabana plays a major role in making our downtown a great place. The stores reputation is consistent with the family owned and operated businesses that make Main Street America a major asset in local communities.

We join with many residents in asking you to allow Critter cabana to continue its practice of selling puppies, kittens, bunnies and other cool creature that they source from local families.

If the purpose of HB2804 is to restrict the use of puppies mills in Oregon we would support amendments that would accomplish the noble goal. However, we cannot support the bill as drafted because it will restrict Critter Cabana from working with local families to purchase pets.

Sincerely,

Mike Ragsdale
Executive Director