



March 1, 2019

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly,

I am the proud owner of a local pet store in Portland and I am writing to you today to ask for your support of H.B. 2804, a bill that will shift the market for puppies, kittens and rabbits toward humane sources by requiring that pet stores only sell animals obtained from animal shelters or rescue organizations. Knowing that most puppies sold at pet stores come from puppy mills, this bill is necessary to help diminish the demand for puppy mill puppies.

I got into the pet store business the same year that it was discovered that fake protein from China laced with melamine, a toxic agent, was prevalent in pet food sold throughout the world and was responsible for thousands of pet deaths in the US alone. After the death of my own pet from melamine, I opened Tré Bone with the mission to provide the best food and supplies available for the health and wellbeing of our furry companions. My customers have come rely on the holistic approach to animal care that I strive to provide every day. Before selling any product to a customer I read every label, research the company that produces it, investigate the environmental footprint of the product, and I source locally whenever possible. In the years since we opened, Tré Bone has become an integral part of the St. Johns neighborhood by hosting dog training classes, raising money for the Oregon Humane Society and supporting other independent pet stores in Portland and the surrounding area.

Tré Bone is the perfect example of a pet store that is successful and profitable on a humane business model. Since opening Tré Bone in 2007 I have never sold live animals in my store. Because of the abundance of animals in shelters and rescues around the state I simply do not see how it is in the best interest of Oregon communities to allow the sale of overpriced puppies from cruel puppy mills. Please vote in favor of H.B. 2804 to align business practices with the animal loving values of Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

SERGE OUATTARA

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Serge Ouattara".

OWNER