

March 18, 2019



Chairman Jeff Barker  
House Committee on Business and Labor  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: HB 2804 Support

Dear Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of HB 2804, legislation that would stop the sale of puppies and kittens at pet stores.

Supporting this bills means saving lives. As an attorney specializing in animal law and the founding director of a local dog rescue, I know firsthand the devastating effects pet stores selling animals has on the puppies themselves, the mothers and other adult dogs that create the puppies, and the community at large when those dogs then take the place of animals in need of rescue who already exist.

The nexus between pet store demand and backyard breeder or puppy mill supply is without question. The conditions of both the breeding environment and pet store itself is an abhorrent place for animals to live for any amount of time, lacking appropriate stimulation, socialization, exercise, nutrition, medical attention and care. The commercialization of companions for profit cannot take precedent over the welfare of those we know to then suffer in turn or else the whole community loses, particularly when more animals enter the shelter and rescue system, burdening tax payers, because of it.

There already exists in shelters and rescues across this state thousands of healthy, adoptable companion animals that are in need of wonderful homes — including puppies. By preventing the sale of animals bred for commercial purposes and instead supporting shelters and rescue animals that come to fruition all sorts of ways, we not only prevent a life from being born purposely, unnecessarily, and carelessly in the first place, but save the life of the puppy who is adopted by the family that would have otherwise purchased a dog. Instead, pet stores will be encouraged to host rescues and shelters for adoption events in order to continue offering their customers the chance to add a member to their family through their store.

We urge the support of HB 2804 as a moral imperative to save lives and do what is in the best interest of Oregon communities, both for its animals and the humans who care about them. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JZ', located below the main text.

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