



Date: March 19, 2019

To: House Committee On Business and Labor
Representative Jeff Barker, Chair

From: Sharon Harmon
President and CEO, Oregon Humane Society

Re: House Bill 2804

Established in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society 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 to ask you to support HB 2804 with the -5 and the -6 amendments.**

As a state that highly values pets and upholds some of the strongest animal welfare laws in the country, Oregon needs to join the growing movement aimed at partnering pet stores with animal shelters and responsible rescues. Currently the many pet stores in Oregon that sell puppies leave an open market for puppy mills.

These large-scale breeding operations are the epitome of animal cruelty where the parent dogs are used as breeding machines and their offspring are merely seen as a money making product. The welfare of these dogs is often overlooked as they are typically kept in filthy, overcrowded conditions with a lack of basic veterinary care, clean water and quality food.

The Oregon Humane Society has a longstanding successful partnership with Petsmart Charities along with many other animal rescues in the Portland metro area. This valuable partnership can help provide a model to pet stores that will help promote animal rescue and the mission to end homeless animal overpopulation. This bill will introduce an elevated level to Oregon's highly regarded animal welfare laws as pet stores team up with local animal rescue groups and host adoption events for dogs and cats of all breeds that are in need of loving homes.

There are a number of ways this bill will help homeless animals in Oregon, but most importantly this bill will ultimately end the inhumane cycle of puppy mill breeders and the irreparable damage they do. We urge this committee to effectively cut off puppy mill sales to pet stores and help support the responsible sourcing of pets by offering animals for adoption from animal shelters and rescue groups by **voting 'yes' on HB 2804 with the -5 and the -6 amendments.**

Sincerely,

Sharon Harmon
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