

I am writing as a concerned citizen active in dog training in Oregon in support of this legislation. It's important to note that this bill treats dog training facilities the same as horse training facilities for purposes of the building code only and not the land use law. The statutory exemption now in place applies specifically to "equines", and not to dogs. Currently, a farm building used for train horses is exempt, but the same building used in to train dogs is not, though the activities are very similar. There is no logical reason to hold dog trainers to a different standard than horse trainers for purposes of the commercial building code and Section 1 of this bill will fix that. The intent is to ensure that dog training facilities are treated the same as horse training facilities for building code purposes.

Dogs are an integral part of the lives of many Oregonians, even more so than horses. Allowing farm buildings to be used as dog training facilities without added financial burdens will ensure equal access to many dog-loving Oregonians. Having well-behaved dogs benefits the community and income from training benefits the state through its tax revenue.