

Submitter: Olivia Kengerski
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3214

One of the major reasons this bill is being heard here in Oregon and on the federal level is that monitoring of animal welfare and enforcement of regulations is expensive:

The USDA inspected Carson & Barnes Circus 42 times from 2007 to 2010. The average cost per inspection was \$1363 – a total cost of \$57,246.

Although US records do not break down regulation costs specific to circuses, worldwide statistics show licensing and inspections for animal circuses is costly. In the UK, the Department of the Environment estimates that the annual cost of inspecting the country's 4 animal circuses (with just 30 animals) would be \$13,000 – \$19,000. The cost in the United States is likely far greater since the US land mass is almost 38 times that of the UK with approximately six times as many circuses to inspect.

Federal oversight of traveling animal acts is costly, problematic, and unmanageable. Nominal licensing fees and minimal, inconsistent monetary penalties don't cover oversight costs; they are largely borne by taxpayers. The US taxpayer effectively pays for 87% of the licensing costs whereas the circus only pays 13%.

To ban wild animals in circuses altogether is cleaner, less costly, and more easily enforced than the current, costly, admittedly problematic and ineffective regulatory oversight. The current administration is calling on Congress to make deep cuts to the budget, with an eye toward less government regulation. Passing the Traveling Exotic Animal and Public Safety Protection Act will protect animals and public safety while saving taxpayer money and reducing government regulation.

We need to pass our local ordinance statewide, just like Multnomah, Benton and Clatsop counties have already done.