

Submitter: Ray Baker
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3214

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Wallan, Vice-Chair Andersen and Members of the Committee.

I am writing you today in opposition to HB 3214.

This bill is an attempting to add another layer of bureaucracy onto our state. After reviewing this bill you will find that it is another poorly written bill with broad interpretations, that lack clarity and substance. I strongly feel that it would lead to unintended consequences against law abiding citizens and businesses that already strive to protect all animals from any form of neglect or abuse. As I am sure you know, Oregon already has ORS Chapter 167 that helps prevent animal cruelty. Enforcing such laws would have a greater impact towards achieving the desired outcome rather than this vague House Bill.

I write to you as someone with over 50 years of experience with animals and at times they were my families whole livelihood. I hold a degree in Animal Science as well I am heavily involved in 4-H, FFA, Rodeo, Indian pageantry and outdoor sportsman activities. All of these entities strive to better inform our public of the intrinsic value animals have in our lives.

The intent of this bill is to try and protect animals but the consequences will only have a negative affect against legitimate animal handlers and ultimately cause a decreased level of knowledge and awareness of how to properly handle and treat animals for our general public. So many of our organizations like sportsman's shows, 4-H, FFA, Rodeo and others have animal handlers to educate our children and families of proper handling and care and try to teach everyone the same respect that we have for these animals.

This bill would ultimately do harm to ethical, law abiding businesses and organizations that strive to educate those that want to learn about animals and their importance to our environment. I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 3214 and not add to unnecessary legislation.