

Submitter: Rachael Oster  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1076

#### Opposition to Senate Bill 1076

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire, Oregon already has some of the most stringent animal welfare laws, including ORS 167.374 and ORS 609.420, which ensure humane breeding practices and prevent animal cruelty. SB 1076 unnecessarily duplicates these laws and detracts from the focus on better enforcing existing regulations.

Enacting SB 1076 would require significant state resources, including hiring additional staff and veterinarians to oversee breeders. The proposed licensing fees are unlikely to cover these enforcement costs. Oregonians will likely be very disappointed about adding such a potentially large sum to Oregon's deficit.

This bill could also severely disrupt youth agricultural programs like 4-H and FFA, which depend on responsible breeders for animals used in educational projects.

These programs teach invaluable life skills and provide important services to communities. SB 1076 could limit the availability of appropriate animals, negatively affecting these programs and the young people they support.

Over-regulation could restrict access to purpose-bred dogs, which are essential for veterans, individuals with disabilities, and rural communities that depend on livestock guardian dogs for safety. These dogs are crucial for the well-being of vulnerable individuals and rural families.

Oregon's pet-related events generate more than \$8.3 million annually for the state's economy. SB 1076 could harm tourism and negatively affect local businesses, potentially causing millions of dollars in losses.

Purebred dogs and cats make up a very small percentage of Oregon's shelter populations, while the remaining are mixed breeds. There is no documentation provided about who the breeders tend to be of any of these animals. My suspicion lies in out of state breeders. Likely, the majority of these animals are transported here from other regions of our country by outside rescue groups.

The real issue lies with shelters and rescue organizations that are importing animals from other states. In 2023, the Oregon Humane Society took in over 4,500 animals from six states outside Oregon. If there is indeed a capacity crisis, why are these organizations continuing to import animals from outside the state? There is clearly no real overpopulation created by Oregonians who breed animals. I would suggest these groups provide onsite assistance to the other states in their own shelters and communities.

Oregonians are creative and impactful. We created spay and neuter programs to reduce our overpopulation of Oregon born dogs and cats. I believe by removing these animals from their own states and bringing them to Oregon, opens up the out-

of-state facilities and homes to create room for their local residents to breed even more. This current system is creating a market and new industry. This needs to be the focus of OHS's and like-minded groups' attention, not Oregon residents, government officials and not our state's budget.

I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 1076 and instead focus on improving the enforcement of existing regulations. The proposed bill would drain state resources without addressing the actual issues and would harm Oregon's animal owners and local communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.