

Submitter: Leslie Hasse
On Behalf Of: Blue Mountain Humane Association
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4034

February 2, 2026

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water,

My name is Leslie Hasse. I live in La Grande, Union County, and I'm here today in strong support of House Bill 4034.

I'm speaking on behalf of Blue Mountain Humane Association, a nonprofit animal shelter that serves rural Eastern Oregon and operates on a true shoestring budget. This shelter is deeply committed to providing a safe, humane, high-save environment for animals that would otherwise have nowhere to go.

Yet without the protections offered by HB 4034, decisions made here in Salem are actively jeopardizing the survival of this organization.

Blue Mountain Humane Association was assessed punitive civil penalties after a virtual audit that allowed no opportunity for explanation or correction. These penalties were imposed on a nonprofit that already pays its licensing fees, strives to comply with regulations, and exists solely to serve the public good. Every dollar taken in penalties is a dollar taken directly from animal care — from food, medical treatment, and lifesaving services.

This is not about avoiding accountability. This is about fairness. When enforcement is rigid and punitive with no consideration for intent, harm, or capacity to pay, it doesn't improve outcomes — it threatens to shut down the very shelters that communities depend on.

In rural Eastern Oregon, losing this shelter would be devastating. There is no backup system. There is no overflow shelter waiting to step in. If Blue Mountain Humane Association is forced to divert scarce resources to penalties, animals will suffer, and our community will lose a critical safety net.

House Bill 4034 restores balance and common sense. It ensures that enforcement does not punish good-faith nonprofits out of existence. I urge you to support HB 4034 and stand with the rural communities, volunteers, and animals who depend on shelters like ours to survive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Leslie Hasse, Treasurer
Blue Mountain Humane Association