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**Date:** February 12, 2015  
**To:** **House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**  
Rep. Brad Witt, Chair  
**Re:** House Bill 2687

Established in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society is the state's largest and oldest animal welfare organization with over 50,000 supporters statewide. We are not affiliated with any local or national organization. **We are here today to ask for your support of enhanced protections for dogs travelling unprotected in open vehicles.**

One of the qualities we value in our canine companions is their ability to find joy in something as simple as a ride in the car. Unfortunately, this routine activity can have dire consequences for dogs and for motorists if the dog is not securely contained in or on the vehicle.

Travelling unsecured in an open truck is dangerous for the dogs and the cars following this accident waiting to happen. Dogs can jump out or fall from moving vehicles. High temperatures can heat the metal bed of truck hot enough to make dogs escape for relief. The statistics for human fatalities from crashes involving animals are even more concerning. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that from 2004 to 2013, there were 2,002 deaths resulting from motor vehicle collisions with animals. 20 of those deaths occurred in Oregon. Another IIHS study analyzing fatalities in animal-related crashes found that of those accidents analyzed, 6 percent of the fatal crashes involved dogs. Many of these crashes result not from hitting the animal but from swerving to miss the animal.

The beds of trucks are designed to carry cargo, not animals. They are not designed to offer protection in a crash or prevent a canine passenger from jumping out or being ejected. Open truck beds offer no barrier between a protective dog's fearful bite and people entering and exiting their cars in parking lots. Whether upon highways, on residential streets, or parked in a public area, dogs and humans can be protected by the safe containment of dogs in vehicles.

Current law is vague, the consequences minimal and out of step with the values of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Sharon Harmon, Executive Director  
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