

Dear Representatives,

Please support HCR 16 making the rescued shelter dog the official state dog of Oregon.

Across the country healthy, loving shelter dogs are being euthanized every day at alarming rates. I could attach images of thousands of dogs that have saved from euthanasia by Oregon shelters, but instead I will simply offer a statistic. Each year approximately 2.4 million shelter animals are euthanized in the U.S alone-about one every 13 seconds.

As a concerned Beaverton resident, a person who grew up with two rescue dogs and a professional with an advanced degree in animal law, this issue is very important to me. Oregon has a proud tradition of rehoming unwanted pets both through our local government operated shelters and private non-profit organizations. Oregon shelters often rescue dogs from other states with higher numbers of unwanted animals, giving these dogs a second chance. Many Oregonians share their homes with dogs rescued from Oregon and other states across the country. Oregonians should be proud of this fact. As a state, we are truly a nationwide leader in this regard. As someone who grew up in Europe and studied the shelter situation in many EU countries, I can also tell you that Oregon one of the world leaders in this regard.

While designating the rescue shelter dog may seem largely symbolic, it has the potential to say a lot about us as a state, and our commitment to protecting some of the most vulnerable beings in our state.

Thank you for reading, and thank you for your public service.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Jenkins LL.B, (Trinity College Dublin School of Law) LL.M (Lewis & Clark Law School)