

Dear Committee Members: As a resident of Bend, Oregon, I strongly support HB2804, the prohibition of the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores. Consumers have no idea what conditions these animals were in before arriving at a pet store. They only see an adorable puppy that may, very well, be seriously ill. These animals come from puppy mills where dogs are churned out like a manufacturing facility. The breeding dogs receive no veterinary care and are kept in filthy conditions in a tiny cage without any interaction with human beings. This fosters an environment of disease. I have spoken to several people who spent well over a \$1,000 for a puppy at a pet store, only to find out that it was seriously ill. Once the dog is out the door, the pet stores have no liability or warranty so the onus is on the consumer to pay for bills related to veterinary care. By outlawing the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores, the stores would be encouraged to host adoption events with shelters/rescues. We kill well over five million dogs in shelters each year. This would provide an avenue for consumers to purchase dogs that have been screened for illness and temperament prior to being available for adoption. In addition, Oregon would be sending a message to bad breeders that there business is not sustainable.

The state of Oregon has a reputation for having an excellent record in animal protection. Let's continue to maintain this by passing HB2804.

Sincerely,

Christine White