



March 18, 2019

Dear Rep Gomberg, Rep Smith DB, Rep Sollman, Rep Doherty, Rep Fahey, Rep Helm, Rep Keny-Guyer, Rep Mitchell, Rep Nosse, Rep Piluso, Rep Power, Rep Prusak, Rep Rayfield, Rep Salinas, Rep Sanchez, Rep Schouten, Rep Wilde, Sen Burdick, Sen Frederick, Sen Golden, Sen Manning Jr, Sen Olsen, Sen Steiner Hayward, Sen Taylor:

The Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce is strongly opposed to HB 2804, which would prohibit a retail pet store from selling or offering to sell dogs, cats or rabbits acquired from a source other than an animal shelter or rescue organization.

One of our local businesses, Critter Cabana (with locations in Newberg, OR, and Wilsonville, OR) would be critically damaged by the passage of this bill. Likely, HB 2804 would result in closing this business, one that is not only a vital part of our local economy, but also a prominent and celebrated establishment in our Downtown District. Co-owners of Critter Cabana, Matt and Brittani Johnson, carefully source their animals, ensuring that their dog, cat and rabbit suppliers are from local families and not profit-centric "farms." They also offer safe, humane care for the animals while they transition to families and guarantees health and care after sale.

With local commercial real estate prices averaging \$1.50/square foot, small pet business like Critter Cabana aren't financially able to expand their facilities to accommodate large, full-grown animals, regardless of our highly competitive market for a very low inventory of available commercial spaces.

Matching pet owners with dogs, cats and rabbits is a significant source of income for Critter Cabana. This small business has proactively, internally addressed issues of animal abuse, overbreeding, and extortion. I strongly encourage our government to focus on better restrictions for breeders and increased spay/neuter campaigns to prevent the mistreatment of animals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Buckmaster".

Shannon Buckmaster, CEO

Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce

Chehalem Valley Chamber of Commerce
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