



Oregon

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Date: March 20, 2019

To: The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary



Senate Bill 638

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

The Department appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on Senate bill 638. Senate bill 638 requires facilities where laboratory research is conducted to offer animals no longer used for research to animal rescue entities for adoption rather than euthanization in certain circumstances.

Under ORS 496.012, the Department of Fish and Wildlife is charged with preventing the serious depletion of any indigenous species and to provide the optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits for present and future generations of the citizens of the state. The department conducts numerous research projects in Oregon to fulfill that mission and develop information critical for managing wildlife.

Most of the wildlife held by the department are trout and salmon species used in research at the Oregon Hatchery Research Center. However, annually the department also has many on-going research projects that involve terrestrial wildlife moving around Oregon, including a research herd of elk at the USFS Starkey Research Facility. As originally drafted, wildlife may be included under Senate bill 638 as laboratory animals using the definition of "animal" found in ORS 609.415, any "nonhuman mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian or fish."

While having no position on Senate bill 638, the department appreciate the amendments to Senate bill 638 that specify dogs and cats as the main animals targeted by the new adoption requirements, while still encouraging the adoption of other animals for humane reasons.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the bill, and for consideration of the amendments which help clarify Senate bill 638 will not pertain to wildlife or impact wildlife research in Oregon.

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