

**SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL:** [hbl.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hbl.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

March 13, 2019

Representative Jeff Barker, Chair  
House Committee on Business and Labor  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Alley Cat Allies and our over half-million supporters, I am writing to urge you to **support H.B. 2804 Pet Store Animal Sale Requirement**. If enacted into law, **H.B. 2804** would prohibit retail pet stores from selling any cat, dog, or rabbit unless the animal was obtained from an animal shelter or rescue organization.

Alley Cat Allies is the global engine of change for cats. We protect and improve cats' lives through our innovative, cutting-edge programs. We are seen around the world as a champion for the humane treatment of all cats. Founded in 1990, today Alley Cat Allies helps tens of thousands of individuals, communities, and organizations save and improve the lives of millions of cats and kittens worldwide.

We are reaching out to you because **H.B. 2804 will significantly help save cats' lives in your state by obstructing the cruel and irresponsible pet breeding industry**. Large-scale commercial pet breeding operations, also known as catteries, puppy mills, and rabbit mills, force animals to live in tiny cages stacked on top of one another as litters are shipped like commodities to pet stores for sale. As a result of poor breeding and sanitation practices, consumers may discover their new pet is sick and lacks proper socialization skills. Sadly, despite their price tags and specialty breeds, many animals sold in pet stores end up in shelters or rescues due to behavioral or health issues.

Animal control agencies and shelters, along with animal rescue groups, play a vital role in our communities. They reunite owners with lost pets, help animals find new homes or remain in their current home. They often provide veterinary services, educate the public about animal care and safety, and house animals seized in cruelty cases. As you know, **your constituents' tax dollars are paying for these services**. Yet despite taxpayer funding and the services these entities provide, wonderful and healthy shelter animals waiting for adoption are killed every day due to limited space and resources.

With your support, **H.B. 2804** can help change the outcome for many companion animals in Oregon by **giving displaced animals a better chance at finding a safe and loving home**. Animals in shelters and rescues deserve every opportunity to find a new family, which isn't possible if they must compete with animals who have been mass-produced for financial gain.

Oregon is not alone in the movement to stop the selling of pets from commercial breeders. Two states—California in 2017 and Maryland in 2018—passed bills requiring all cats, dogs, and, in California, rabbits, sold in pet stores to come from animal rescues and shelters, while many others are considering similar legislation this year. Coast to coast, the message is clear: we are a nation of compassionate people who will no longer tolerate an industry that profits from the suffering of animals.

On behalf of your constituents, our supporters, and Oregon's animals, **we applaud your desire to promote pet adoption and urge you to pass H.B. 2804**. Thank you for supporting this lifesaving bill.

Sincerely,



Becky Robinson  
President & Founder, Alley Cat Allies