

## Watts Remy

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**From:** Michelle Blake <blake\_michelle@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2019 10:59 AM  
**To:** SENR Exhibits  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB 883

April 4, 2019

Chairman Michael Dembrow  
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

### **Re: HB 883 2019 Support**

Dear Chairman Dembrow and Vice-Chair Olsen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 883. I come to this issue with a few decades of animal welfare experience, from working at Willamette Humane Society in Salem, and returning later to serve on their board and eventually as board president. I was a member of the board of directors that founded Fences For Fido ten years ago, and I continue to be involved with the organization today. I also work managing editor at Spot Magazine – a 15-year-old publication that covers everything pet in the Northwest.

I speak today on behalf of Fences For Fido. We're a nonprofit organization that works with families in Oregon and Washington who have dogs living outside primarily on chains or in small enclosures. To date, our volunteers have built free fenced yards for more than 2,000 dogs.

Working with families in this capacity, as one would imagine, we've also been involved in rehoming many dogs. In the early years of our organization, through discussions with our clients, it was clear that in some cases a fence wasn't going to be enough, and families would ask us to rehome their dogs instead of building them a fence. So we began to have a *de facto* rescue arm of our organization. I was one of three volunteers who oversaw it.

Over time we realized as an organization that was a tough balance, and as an organization, we were better fence builders, and so now our partnership with rescues and shelters is to serve as a bridge between reputable rescues and shelters and the families that want to rehome their dogs.

There are so many amazing rescues in the state of Oregon. Oregon's animals are fortunate. We know Oregon is a leader among states, for its high save rate and its humane regulations.

In short, we know what is at stake. We understand the disposition, organization, and careful care required to operate a rescue, and to operate it well. We strongly support regulation to weed out the bad actors or those without the right constitution for this important work.

Respectfully,  
Michelle Blake  
Salem