



HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on Senate Bill 103
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

February 2, 2021

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Heard and members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We have board members from several different animal welfare organizations but are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon attended (virtually) the Committee's public hearing on the above bill to learn more about the issues it seeks to address. Having heard the testimony of agency officials, **Humane Voters Oregon is neutral at this time on Senate Bill 103.**

The Oregon Department of Agriculture works regularly with animals, including farm animals and companion animals. Thus, it may make sense that the Department of Agriculture play a leading role in emergency planning for animals. We defer to the expertise of the agencies at this time to make that judgment.

Humane Voters Oregon submits this testimony primarily to say we strongly support specific consideration of animals – farm animals, companion animals, service animals, lab animals and wildlife – in emergency planning. We support this consideration for the sake of people who receive emotional and/or economic value from the animals, but also for the sake of the animals themselves. We appreciate the attention this issue receives under existing law and the efforts of those who helped to provide sanctuary for animals, as well as people, in response to the recent wildfires (though we understand the response may have been less than perfect).

We also believe that existing law (ORS 401.975 to ORS 401.978) could do more to recognize the inherent value of animals and to provide specifically for all types of animals in emergency planning. We look forward to further discussions on those issues as well as the issues addressed by SB 103.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz

Brian Posewitz
Board Member/Administrator