



February 4, 2021

**House Bill 2033
(Support)**

Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dear Chair Witt, Vice-Chair Iverson, Vice-Chair Hudson, and Other Committee Members:

House Bill 2033 helps the Oregon Department of Agriculture more readily recruit the assistance of veterinary technicians when there is a need for their service. One example of need would be the recent wildfires across western Oregon for the evacuation, housing, and treatment of pets, livestock and wildlife.

Veterinarians and veterinary technicians are vital members of the Oregon Veterinary Emergency Response Team (OVERT), which performs under the auspices of ODA-Animal Health. This service is on notice to assist the State of Oregon when responding to the incursion of a foreign animal disease, such as Foot and Mouth Disease, as well as disasters and emergencies.

One barrier for bringing veterinary technicians on board is that current law, as we understand it, requires that technicians be employed by ODA in order to provide their assistance – unlike veterinarians who are deputized to participate in OVERT and who then are compensated for their time and service, but not under State Employment. This requirement is cumbersome and can delay ODA from being able to recruit the help of veterinary technicians when the urgent or immediate need arises.

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association supports HB 2033 because it speeds up ODA's ability to recruit veterinary technicians for their professional services, while compensating them fairly and equitably for this service. We ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Glenn

Glenn M. Kolb, Executive Director

