

To the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife Recovery

RE: Support for HB 2645

Dear committee members:

I am writing on behalf of myself and my husband as private landowners and Oregon residents, in support of HB 2645 exempting dog training in agricultural buildings from state structural specialty codes. This amendment is not related to land use, as the land use has LONG been approved at the state level. However, the land use decision neglected to add 'dog training facility' to ORS 455.315 so that dog training in agricultural buildings are subject to the SAME exemptions from the building code that equestrians currently enjoy.

We are simply asking that the buildings be treated the same way whether they're being used for equestrian sports or dog sports. The current land use laws already prohibit the number of people that can be onsite for dog training to 6 classes per day and no more than 10 dogs per class – a restriction that doesn't apply to equestrian facilities. This severely limits the activity that can take place inside these buildings and they are not occupied for very many hours of the day for dog training. They are not even remotely the same as a dog boarding facility.

To adequately compete in these sports, having a large arena is necessary for training – just like it is for horses. The dogs coming to these facilities are generally highly trained to perform complex behaviors, and rules always exist for keeping them on leash and removing waste from the site.

If we are a state that values equity and inclusion, then the exemptions that exist for one animal sport should also exist for another. Again, the land use decision has previously been made. This bill simply allows us to use these agricultural buildings in the way that was intended by the unanimously approved House Bill 4170.

There are no reported LUBA cases challenging a proposed dog training facility. This bill does not propose any changes to the land use laws applicable to dog training facilities. If the bill passes, the land use laws will stay the same. If the bill fails, the land use laws will stay the same.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elissa Looney & Broderick Ferguson

Oregon State and Washington County Residents