



PETER COURTNEY
President of the Senate

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

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TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY

SB 1504

February 8, 2022

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation, thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Peter Courtney. I am a state senator. I live in NE Salem. I am here to testify in support of SB 1504.

SB 1504 follows 41 other states in standing up against cruelty to greyhounds.

Only 9 states still allow greyhound racing:

- West Virginia
- Arkansas
- Iowa
- Alabama
- Connecticut
- Kansas
- Texas
- Wisconsin
- Oregon

Of those states, only West Virginia, Arkansas, and Iowa still operate greyhound tracks. Arkansas and Iowa will be closing down their tracks by the end of this year, leaving West Virginia with the only two operational greyhound tracks in the country.

While Oregon no longer has an operational dog racing track, it is still legal to wager on greyhound racing. **SB 1504 will prohibit any gambling connected with greyhound racing.**

The overbreeding and forced racing of greyhounds results in needless pain and suffering. The treatment many of these dogs experience, including beating, drugging, overworking, and living in confined spaces, is cruel and inhumane.

I don't believe in the mistreatment of any animal, and I think Oregonians would be disgusted by the abuse these dogs experience. Oregon should not be promoting or engaging in this abuse at any level.

Even Florida, which operated 11 of the nation's 17 greyhound tracks in 2018, took a hard line on dog racing. Florida took up a ballot measure in November 2018 titled, "Ends Dog Racing." An overwhelming 69% of Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment that banned racing and wagering on greyhounds or other dogs.

Please approve SB 1504 so we can join the rest of the country in saying NO to the cruel treatment of our dogs.