

Submitter: Mark Schellhase  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3214

I am writing to urge you to support HB 3214, which would prohibit the use of animals in traveling circuses in the state of Washington. As a concerned citizen and animal welfare advocate, I strongly believe that it is time to put an end to this cruel and outdated practice.

Animals in traveling circuses are subjected to a life of constant confinement, deprivation, and physical abuse. They are forced to perform unnatural tricks and behaviors that are completely foreign to their instincts and natural behaviors. They are often kept in small, cramped cages or enclosures, and are denied the opportunity to exercise, socialize, and engage in any kind of natural behavior. This kind of treatment is not only inhumane, but also potentially dangerous to both the animals and the public.

Furthermore, the use of animals in traveling circuses is no longer necessary for entertainment. There are plenty of alternative forms of entertainment that do not rely on the exploitation of animals, such as acrobatics, music, comedy, and more. In fact, many circuses have already successfully transitioned to animal-free shows, and have found that they are just as popular and profitable.

By passing HB 3214, Washington would join a growing number of states and countries that have already banned the use of animals in traveling circuses. This would send a powerful message that our state is committed to animal welfare and ethical treatment of animals. It would also protect the public from potential safety risks associated with animal-based entertainment.

In conclusion, I urge you to support HB 3214 and help put an end to the cruel and outdated practice of using animals in traveling circuses. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.