

12 March 2023

House Committee on Judiciary

Re: House Bill 3571

Dear Chair Representative Kropf, Vice-Chairs Representatives Andersen and Wallan, and members of the Committee;

House Bill 3571 follows in the footsteps of previous Oregon legislation, i.e., 2017's House Bill 2732, which allowed breaking into vehicles to remove a pet who *appeared* to be in imminent danger, whether or not the animal concerned was actually in any danger was left to the one doing damage to the vehicle.

Unsurprisingly, HB 2732 is another example of the old saw of the camel getting its nose under the tent flap.... the rest of the camel will follow and HB 3571 more or less proves that point. The precedent is set and the door to further laws of this sort – decriminalizing destruction of private property - is opening wider.

One state representative recently (24 February 2023) wrote to me saying, "*Right now, Oregon's animal shelters, rescues, and county animal control services are struggling with capacity issues, ...*" If that is true then the odds are that these "saved" cats and dogs will end up being killed by the "animal holding agency" rather than – for example – a hot vehicle interior or starved at the end of a chain. The end result is the same, the question is between means, not ends.

Without the immunity provided by this bill, we (still) have the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution that allows jury nullification and I for one have enough confidence in our citizenry at large to believe they would do the right thing and acquit in a genuine case of rescue. Precisely why does Oregon need this legislation? Is HB 3571 important enough for our legislation to take this up as a serious issue when means (see above) are already available to accomplish the same?

Does anyone actually know how many animals will be "saved"? And at what cost?

How is this bill actually going to help the citizens of Oregon? Well for one thing, odds are it will cost us more to enforce the provisions of this bill.

HB 3571 is a futile attempt to condone criminal activity against ignorant, thoughtless people, for most would agree it is ignorant, thoughtless people who mistreat and endanger pets. It is my hope HB 3571 will be tabled, but House Bill 2915 (stopping the sale of dogs and cats in our state – by pet stores no less!) is progressing, so I suspect this bill will pass as well.

Sincerely,



Richard Wisner