

February 19, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SB 976:

Chairman Golden and members of the committee,

I am writing to you today to express my support of SB 976. As an Oregon horse owner SB 976 is extremely important to me and the health of my horses.

Like many other states Oregon is facing a serious crisis in the lack of available large animal veterinarians. This is making access to care very difficult while making veterinary care virtually unaffordable. Oftentimes due to the influx of horse populations in Central Oregon we cannot even get an available appointment booked as a new client so only established horses can be seen.

Passage of SB 976 would allow horse owners the right to choose from another group of professionals who are fully competent and more than qualified to provide dental care for our horses. In fact, many horse owners already prefer using an Equine Dentist over their Veterinarian due to the level of dental focused education they received versus Veterinarians and the specialized skill set they spent years focusing on that makes them so thorough and proficient at what they do.

Please pass SB 976, there are not enough Veterinarians to handle the workload and horses are suffering as a result.

I do not view this issue as a veterinarian vs qualified Equine Dentist stance. I have worked in a veterinary equine clinic and know first hand the excellent care vet's provide, however, there is only so much time in a day and many also specialize in other areas such as surgery or performance sports medicine and therefore are not able to stay current after their initial course of a few weeks is completed during vet school. The ideal model in my view is to let veterinarians and qualified Equine Dentists collaborate to benefit the horse and together quality assurance and DELIVERY of service is possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read my communication. I believe we can work together with an open mindset to allow those that specifically focus on Equine Dentistry provide excellent and prompt service much like the long standing proven model that my horse friends in Texas already have access to.

Best regards,

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