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### **HB 3604**



Good Afternoon Chair Kropf and members of the committee. I am Jan McComb, and unlike the other witnesses who do great work saving animal lives, I am a mere member of the community. I wasn't going to testify, but I thought it was important to understand how the stray cat problem affects the whole community. I'll be brief so I don't take away their time.

The cat population in Salem is exploding. According to Cats.com, single cat can have 5 litters in a year, with 3-5 kittens per litter. That's 25 kittens a year. And a cat can become pregnant at 4 months. Worse-case scenario, that's another 50 cats from one unsplayed cat in one year. You can understand why spay and neuter programs are a focus of these rescue groups.

As a member of the community, I see posts on Next Door and other community forums several times a day about stray cats. People want to do the humane thing by these animals and want resources and advice. When someone suggests the Oregon Humane Society, they are told that OHS doesn't deal with stray cats anymore and people are deeply troubled about that. When I found a stray cat abandoned in Minto Brown Park, there were no resources to help me because the existing organizations were so overburdened. These rescue organizations are unsung heroes in my eyes and they are only asking for the tools to help them make the world a better place for animals. They speak for those who cannot.

The Oregon Humane Society has been doing lifesaving work since 1868. It is a trustworthy and well-run organization. If they tell you they need this tool, then you can trust that they do.

In addition to enacting HB 3604 with the forthcoming amendment, I'd like the legislature to consider naming the OHS in the session-end Christmas Tree bill with an appropriation. These organizations subsist on small donations and a even a small grant from the legislature would make a world of difference to Oregon's cats and dogs.

Thank you for your time.