

Submitter: Cierra Buer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1076

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Position: I am writing to express my strong support of Senate Bill 1076.

As I read through the opposing testimonies, I see a common theme. Breeders of livestock guardian dogs, farm dogs and small livestock breeders don't want to be regulated. As the founder of an Animal Rescue Entity, I can say I didn't want to be either. However, compliance with the ARE program has improved my recordkeeping and helped my rescue entity clarify its mission. Similarly, those who oppose this bill argue they won't be able to make a profit off of breeding animals anymore. I would counter that the ARE's being regulated are all non-profit organizations who can much less afford to pay fees and fines imposed by this regulation. The truth is, SB 1076 is necessary and breeders should be held to at minimum, the same standards as an animal rescue entity.

The facts are that Animal Rescue Entities are necessary because of breeders both large and small. As an animal shelter employee, I see the effects of overbreeding every time I go to work. In Deschutes county, we see purpose bred animals like Livestock Guardian Dogs and ranch breeds (Heelers, Collies, etc) come in with great frequency. We also have a large amount of purebred or designer breed dogs come in. The assertion that the majority of dogs at shelters are a result of backyard breeders and accidental litters is preposterous.

Another complaint by the opposition is the threat to youth programs like 4H and FFA. I would argue this bill will benefit these programs because the children involved will know their animals came from reputable breeders who value the animals they breed and don't just see them as an easy way to make a buck. The children involved in these programs are learning to be responsible and respectful of the animal programs they are involved in. Where they source them from matters.

It is unfortunate that a few irresponsible breeders and ARE's made legislation necessary, but that is the world we are living in. Until shelters across the United States are empty and large and small animal rescues are no longer needed, we will need regulation of breeders.

Thank You,

Cierra Buer, DVM