

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 1076, which imposes unnecessary and costly regulations on responsible pet breeders in Oregon. This bill will not only harm Oregon's communities but also contribute millions to the state's budget deficit.

We can proudly say that Oregon already has some of the strictest animal welfare laws, including ORS 167.374 and ORS 609.420, which ensure humane breeding conditions and regulate cruelty. SB 1076 duplicates oversights. The state needs to improve enforcement of the existing laws.

SB 1076 will harm youth agricultural programs like 4-H and FFA, which rely on existing and new responsible breeders who do not overcharge youth for their animals. These programs teach students valuable life skills while providing essential service dogs to the community. SB 1076's will limit the availability of suitable animals as many of these breeders will either exit animal husbandry or require raising prices above what these families can afford, thus harming these educational projects and the young people they serve.

Over-regulation could limit access to purpose-bred dogs. This would undermine rural and our disabled communities that rely on these dogs for safety and support.

Oregon's pet-related events contribute over \$8.3 million annually to the state's economy. SB 1076 will result in decreased tourism; impacting local businesses in the millions.

Purebred dogs and cats only make up 20% of our shelter populations, that means 80% are mixed breeds. The real problem lies with the shelters and rescues who transport animals into Oregon, from other states or buy them from animal auctions in other states. In 2023, the Oregon Humane Society took in over 4,500 animals from six states outside of Oregon.

From a personal point of view, I am a member in good standing and board member of a local AKC breed specific club. In order to remain a member in good standing and because it is the moral thing to do, each of our members conducts annual health testing of our dogs; especially before considering breeding. We also carefully choose breeding pairs based on the overall health and wellbeing of the breed. We spend significant time scouring puppy buyer applications to place them in the best homes with contracts requiring the surrender of dogs to breeders if they can no longer keep them. Most of us only breed occasionally - every few years. Licensing and inspection

when we only breed every few years would be highly restrictive especially of preservation breeders of heritage breeds and inspections of our personal homes, as these are most often our personal pets, is an invasion of privacy.

I strongly urge you to oppose Senate Bill 1076 and instead focus on enforcing the existing strong regulations already in place. Thank you for your time and consideration.