

Chair, Vice Chair, Senators, and Sponsors of SB 1076  
Re: SB 1076

I strongly oppose SB 1076 and have profound concerns about its impact on Oregonians. While SB 1076 has an admirable goal, the terms of the bill are too broad and the proposed penalties are extreme. As this bill is written it reads as a way to squeeze money out of every aspect of animal breeding, rescue, and care rather than genuine concern for the welfare and quality of life of the animals we share our lives with. SB 1076 practically admits this itself in its own terms:

“[...] adjusted annually for inflation for every year after 2026 to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region (All Items).”

Its enforcement will not see an Oregon free of pet overpopulation; it will instead produce an environment that discourages responsible local Oregon rescue and hobby breeders and inadvertently promote the importation of out of state dogs from retail rescue and high volume breeders.

The passing of this bill will see Oregonians spending their money out of state. It will not only create a vacuum well bred and reliable animals of ALL kinds, due to the broad terms of the bill, available from local Oregon rescue and breeders but will also result in undue burden to farmers, job loss to the veterinary staff who provide expert care for these animals, diminish or damage accessibility to 4H, and trickle to every other professional who makes their living providing training and care for livestock and pets. A good number of these professionals, rescues, and breeders, may simply leave the state of Oregon upon the enforcement of SB 1076 and create a vacuum.

In my personal case, as an occasional hobby breeder, frequent rescue volunteer, and the current president of an Oregon based breed club, I can tell you that it exacerbates the extinction of my dog breed of choice, which has only 3 small scale breeders in the whole of North America.

I have been involved in Kishu Ken survival for 11 years in May and watched the population drop since obtaining my first dog born in 2011. I built the National Kishu Ken Club from the ground up, paid for research on health and genetics for the entire population from my own pocket, established the minimum requirement for health testing, and have fostered international relations through this breed in 4 continents. I love these dogs and the people who enjoy their lives with them. The Kishu Ken is designated a natural cultural monument in Japan - literally a living monument of human culture. I know of zero (0) high volume breeders in Japan or North America and the breed is rapidly disappearing as our aging breeders pass away and increasing restrictions on breeders make establishing new small scale hobby breeders challenging. This breed - a living monument of how we have evolved to live with dogs and how dogs have shaped our culture - will die with help from legislation like SB 1076 alongside our current economic state and overall climate of distrust in government overreach.

I place dogs primarily with Oregonian pet owners who I provide education and guidance to so they may go on to breed their dogs in a responsible manner under my kennel group. Most of these pet owners will breed their dogs just once, which helps the breed's survival plan and diversity immeasurably. Their contribution is invaluable. As a result, a not insignificant amount of the breeding population - three (3) of the grand total of SIX (6) female dogs who may go on to have litters in the United States, live with their loving families in Oregon.

This bill would require all of these pet owners I spend years educating on animal welfare and responsible breeding practices, who only have one or two dogs, love their dogs, and want the breed to survive to the next generation of dog lovers to choose from, to be licensed or face severe penalties. This risk is not worth it to the average pet owner, so these homes will now, instead, watch the breed they love disappear under a bill that is meant to aid Oregon animals.

Furthermore, it proposes to increase the cost of licensure on rescues and humane societies which already struggle.

If this is an attempt by Oregon and Oregonians who wish to legislate breeders, speak to well respected breeders in the community to better research a bill which will target unethical breeders who harm the welfare of their animals and the community. Write a better bill - one that is to the benefit of Oregonians and the animals of Oregon. Write one that is more specific in its terms, and write one that doesn't appear to put more financial pressure on in state AREs. This one ensures the only individuals who will continue breeding animals in Oregon are those where their passion and wealth meet, breeders who will raise their cost dogs to meet the state's rising license costs every year, large scale operations, and those who are already happy to break the law.

Thank you for your time.