

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business:

I strongly support HB 3020. Thank you for bringing it promptly to a public hearing and work session. I urge you to give it a Do Pass recommendation and send it to the Senate floor for a vote just as promptly.

Oregon banned dog racing in 2022 but we have continued to enable the animal cruelty associated with the “sport” by permitting Advanced Deposit Wagering companies to accept millions of dollars in internet bets on dog races around the world. In keeping with Oregon’s values, this needs to end.

As I read through other testimonies supporting and opposing this bill, it seems there are two primary reasons for opposition:

- The first is the profits earned by those in the industry. While I appreciate that this bill could impact the livelihoods of a few Oregonians, when we weigh that against the scope of animal cruelty well-documented in this industry and the financial harm to those with gambling addictions, it should be no contest. The dogs win!
- The second reason given for opposing this bill is the pleasure some people get from the actual races, from watching these magnificent creatures run. I can appreciate that, but to those opponents I would say this: Go hang out at the Sandy River Delta off leash dog park for a few hours any day of the week. What a treasure that place is for dog-lovers and AND dogs! Anyone who loves to watch dogs run - and swim and play - can watch to their heart’s content (and enjoy a wonderful walk to boot)!

This bill is about putting the welfare of another species ahead of the desires of some for profit and recreation. We have a long way to go on this front, but this bill is an important step in the right direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important legislation.

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