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February 17, 2026

RE: House Bill 4034

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

As a rural Oregon resident, I respectfully urge your support and passage of HB 4034 and thank you for taking the time to consider this important bill, which addresses a statewide issue affecting both urban and rural communities. HB 4034 would lessen stringent documentation requirements that, in some cases, cannot be met due to missing or unavailable data. As noted in testimony from our local animal rescue, Blue Mountain Humane Society, this bill would help reduce the financial strain of fines that divert limited resources away from purchasing dog and cat food and providing necessary medical care.

I live in a rural area approximately eight miles outside the city limits of La Grande, in the heart of the Grande Ronde Valley. Unfortunately, our area has become a frequent location for people to abandon unwanted litters of kittens and senior-aged dogs. These animals are often taken in by local residents or turned over to the animal rescue center. Without this valuable organization in place, what would happen to the dozens of dogs and hundreds of cats and kittens abandoned each year?

Just two days ago, an older yellow Labrador Retriever — a highly desired breed — was dropped off at a nearby farm, and to date there has been no success in identifying the owners. This example demonstrates that abandoned animals are not limited to mixed breeds but also include well-known purebred animals.

We should encourage accountability while promoting responsible pet ownership and ensuring animal rescues remain available to find new homes for animals left to fend for themselves, often becoming prey in the agricultural fields of our valley. In addition to being abandoned in farm fields, animals are also driven into the nearby Blue Mountains and left to survive on their own.

In closing, I respectfully urge your support and passage of HB 4034. This is a simple request of the Legislature that will benefit all Oregonians, both two- and four-legged. Please pass HB 4034 so that animal rescues are better equipped to serve the communities they represent.

Sincerely,

Jake Seavert
Commissioner