



PETER COURTNEY  
President of the Senate

**Senate Committee on Environment  
And Natural Resources**

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*TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY  
SB 326*

*FEBRUARY 8, 2017*

Chair Dembrow, members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Peter Courtney. I am a State Senator. I live in NE Salem.

I am here to testify in support of SB 326.

Pet adoption today looks a lot different than it did when I was a kid. In the Salem area, adopting a dog from the Willamette Human Society starts at \$100 and can go up to \$350. Kittens, which use to be given away free in front of grocery stores, are now available for adoption for \$100.

At the Marion County Animal Shelter, dog adoption costs \$175. The Portland Human Society's dog adoption fee is \$250. At almost all shelters you'll also have to fill out a multiple page application. About your family. The type of pet you're looking for. The resources and effort you are willing to put into a potential pet.

**I am not here to complain about the adoption process.**

There are good reasons for these costs. Our local shelters and Human Societies are doing outstanding work. They find loving and safe homes for animals. Adoption costs have gone up because they include basic health services.

Vaccines and de-wormer  
Microchipping

Spaying or neutering (helps prevent future shelter animals.)

In addition to a minimum of \$100 for adoption, costs of food, new toys, a bed, kennel, leash, brush, litter box, obedience classes, pet registration, etc. etc.- add up. These things could easily add up to \$500 or more.

By adopting from a shelter or rescue group an animal's life is being **saved**. A human's life is made **richer**.

I support this bill. I think providing a tax return up to \$100 is the least we can do to reward someone for adopting a shelter pet.

**Footnote:**

The Willamette Human Society, here in Salem, is having a free adoption event this weekend. So if you can't wait for a tax credit, I encourage you to come down this weekend and help us end petlessness.

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. I hope you'll join me in supporting this bill.