



February 14, 2017

Honorable Members of the
Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Senate
Via email: senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: Support for SB 326 – Animal Adoption Tax Credit

Dear Chairman Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal (ASPCA), I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 326 (SB 326).

Founded in 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) is the first humane organization established in the Americas and serves as our nation's leading voice for animal welfare.

This bill would allow Oregonians that adopt an animal from a qualified animal rescue organization to take a tax credit of up to \$100. The bill represents a modest investment that will pay dividends for taxpayers across Oregon. Communities across the state have taken steps to minimize the time animals spend in shelters in order to save more lives and reduce costs to taxpayers. However, the economic challenges of the past few years have tested local government to do more to achieve positive outcomes for animals with far fewer resources.

Oregon shelters are working hard to increase the number of shelter adoptions by promoting adoption aggressively, including by offering substantial discounts to the public. Shelters spend hundreds of dollars to provide spay/neuter, vaccinations, and other necessary care but typically charge adoption fees that subsidize only a portion of these costs in order to incentivize adoption. Creating a tax incentive for adoption would significantly aid these efforts of our hard-working shelters to find suitable homes for the tens of thousands of dogs and cats entering our shelters each year.

Simply put, SB 326 is a bargain for the state that will empower taxpayers to make a significant difference in the sheltering community throughout Oregon, saving lives and money. We urge your support for SB 326. The ASPCA looks forward to working with all of you to enact strong protections for Oregon animals.

Best Regards,

Susan Lea Riggs
Senior Director of State Legislation, Western Region
ASPCA®