



**PET INDUSTRY JOINT  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
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Tel: 202-452-1525

Chairman Brian Clem  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: House Bill 4045 – Oppose**

Dear Chairman Clem and Members of the Committee,

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments in opposition to HB 4045. As the country's largest pet trade association, representing the interests of all segments of the pet industry throughout the United States, PIJAC counts among its members national associations, organizations, corporations and individuals involved in the commercial pet trade. More specifically, PIJAC represents the interests of responsible pet stores, distributors, pet supply manufacturers, breeders, retailers and pet owners throughout the state of Oregon and across the United States.

The economic impact of the pet industry in Oregon is enormous. It supports over 14,000 jobs and provides over \$555 million in salaries, wages, and benefits. The Oregon pet industry generates approximately \$728 million in direct economic output, including veterinary services, pet products, pet services, and pet sales. Oregonians clearly love pets. While well-intentioned, HB 4045 would harm Oregon pet owners by increasing the number of dogs from unregulated sources.

No one cares more about healthy and safe pets than PIJAC and its members. Our association has long been recognized as the voice for a responsible pet trade, and we routinely advocate legislative and regulatory proposals establishing governmental mandates where appropriate to advance the public interest and the welfare of pets. PIJAC works closely with USDA to ensure effective enforcement of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), and we regularly work with federal and state agencies as well as local governments to advance animal welfare interests.

Even as we have worked to raise standards of care, PIJAC has battled misconceptions about the quality of pet store animals and the sources of such animals. The unsubstantiated assertion that pet store animals generally come from substandard breeding facilities is commonly used as a smoke screen to obscure the fact that the overwhelming majority of pet owners who choose to purchase from pet stores bring home a happy, healthy pet and remain highly satisfied with their pet store experience.

The reality is that almost all pet store puppies originate from USDA licensed breeders who are regularly inspected and found to comply with appropriate care standards under the AWA. By contrast, many of the dogs from other sources, including rogue internet operators, private sales, shelters and rescues, did not come from licensed breeders. HB 40445 restrictions would only drive prospective pet owners to unscrupulous sellers of pets who are not licensed and are unconcerned about compliance with animal care standards. Further, many shelter animals are relinquished because of socialization or health issues.

Adoption may not be an appropriate option for families looking for a certain breed of animal for health considerations. There are varied reasons why families choose the pets they do. Oregon families should have a choice and not be denied the pet that best fits their needs.

As such, PIJAC opposes HB 4045 and we respectfully ask that you not advance this legislation. We appreciate your consideration and would welcome the opportunity to work with you on this measure and other policy issues related to the care of pet animals. By working together, we can ensure that Oregonians continue to have access to regulated sources of animals to love as pets now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Savonne Caughey  
Director of Government Affairs  
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC)