

Chairman Jeff Barker  
House Committee on Business and Labor  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2804 support

Dear Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of HB 2804, legislation that would stop the sale of puppies and kittens in pet stores.

I remember advocating for this back in the early '80s, before moving to California. Now that I'm living in Oregon again, I'm surprised to see this remains an ongoing battle here.

I've always thought of Oregon as being a leader in progressive thinking. Yet, there are still pet stores that sell living animals such as puppies and kittens? This, despite the fact that business trends point to consumer support of pet stores that sell pet products — not the pets themselves. All indications appear to be that adoption from rescues and shelters is in vogue. So why the disconnect?

Selling puppies and kittens in pet stores is a practice that should have gone out with the Dark Ages. It supports backyard breeding and puppy mills (and all the horrors those can entail), offers "merchandise" that is of questionable health, and encourages impulse shopping.

Impulse purchases of young, cute animals often leads to abandonment of the not-fully-thought-out acquisition once the cuteness wears off and the cost of caring for a pet sinks in. And while rescues and shelters vet out prospective owners, and require pets to be spayed and neutered before they can be adopted, pet shops do not. The results can be devastating for the puppy or kitten, and catastrophic for the problem of pet overpopulation and spread of disease.

Numerous responsible pet supply retailers are on board with HB 2804, and have pledged never to sell puppies and kittens, encouraging adoption instead. And why not? According to the American Pet Products Association, in 2017 Americans spent \$69 billion on products for their pets, while sales of live animals declined.

Support for HB 2804 is ethical, makes sense, and is right for Oregon. Please support HB 2804.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Stone  
Rose Lodge, OR