



January 31, 2018

Dear Senator/Representative,

Established in 1868, the Oregon Humane Society is the state's largest and oldest animal welfare organization with over 50,000 supporters statewide. We are not affiliated with any local or national organization. **I am writing to you today to urge you to reject the proposed "Protect Interstate Commerce Act" (H.R. 4879/H.R. 3599) and the "No Regulation Without Representation Act" (H.R. 2887).**

Representative Steve King previously introduced a nearly identical amendment to the 2014 Farm Bill, which was met with resounding opposition and omitted from the final bill. H.R. 3599 seeks to negate state and local laws relating to the production of agricultural products. Under the King bill, Oregon would have to tolerate the production or sale of any particular agricultural product if any state tolerates the production as well. For example, H.R. 3599 could apply to animal welfare concerns, such as puppy mills. In 2009, Oregon legislators passed one of the strongest and most comprehensive puppy mill bans, prohibiting breeders from owning more than 50 sexually intact dogs at a time if the dogs are two years or older and used for breeding. The law states that crates may not be stacked and dogs must get at least one hour of exercise a day and must have enough room to turn, sit, stand and lie down without touching the walls or another dog. Under H.R. 3599, Oregon could be forced to allow lesser requirements, such as smaller cage space and crate stacking, defeating the purpose of the law.

In addition, H.R. 2887 prevents Oregon from regulating professions, services, and the sale of any product made in another state by prohibiting states from taxing or regulating any activity in interstate commerce unless that person is physically present in the state for 15 days or more. As long as they were in Oregon for less than 15 days, short-term visitors would be able to perform a host of acts our state deems prohibited without being subject to Oregon standards or restrictions. For example, in 2016 Oregonians overwhelmingly voted to prohibit the purchase and sale of products and parts from certain threatened or endangered species, such as elephants, rhinos, and sharks. Under H.R. 2887, a person could visit Oregon for two weeks and purchase or sell ivory, which is extremely problematic for coastal states like Oregon that import products from all over the world.

The amount of Oregon laws under threat by either of these bills alone is considerable; however, acting in concert these bills could set aside a vast array of Oregon laws. H.R. 3599 could abrogate any Oregon law adopted with regard to agriculture and H.R. 2887 could abrogate any Oregon law even remotely related to interstate commerce.

Oregon has historically possessed the power to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens by regulating the sale of goods and services within our borders. Oregon legislators have

worked tirelessly to enact laws that reflect the standards and interests of our state and its citizens. Our founders built our nation on the fundamental principles of federalism, and these bills constitute a substantial federal overreach on the laws enacted by our proud state and its residents. **Please reject these bills and any similar assault on duly-enacted Oregon state measures.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Harmon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sharon Harmon
Executive Director, Oregon Humane Society
sharon@oregonhumane.org
(503) 416-2992