



HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on Senate Bill 496 Senate Committee on Housing and Development

January 24, 2023

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon supports Senate Bill 496.

SB 496 would increase funding and flexibility to accommodate the pets of people who need emergency housing. This would be good for both the people and the pets involved. It would also be good for our community animal shelters.

SB 496 would be good for people seeking emergency housing because it would allow them to get the help they need without requiring them to separate from their often-beloved pets as a condition of getting that help.

SB 496 also would be good for pets because it would require fewer of them to endure the anxiety and hardship of being separated from their owners, and possibly surrendered to our system of animal shelters with no clear outcome. Pets accommodated in emergency housing also could get potentially needed grooming, food, and veterinary care.

Finally, accommodating pets in emergency housing would likely reduce the number of pets surrendered to animal shelters, which could help reduce overcrowding in those facilities.

For the above reasons, we hope you will give SB 496 a “Do Pass” recommendation.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz

Brian Posewitz
Director