

(Note: although IP 28 did fail to collect enough validated signatures to appear on the November 2026 ballot, supporters have vowed to try again, believing they have gained momentum. As a result of the negative publicity the proposal received it is to be hoped that some eyes were opened and the next such petition attempt will be less successful, but the well-heeled promoters of IP-28 will undoubtedly try again. Following is the argument that the Oregon State Grange would have placed in the Oregon Voters Pamphlet in opposition to IP 28)

Oregon State Grange Strongly Opposes IP 28

IP 28 is a wolf in sheep's clothing. The Oregon State Grange strongly opposes IP 28 because it would have devastating consequences for both animals and the agricultural community. Grange is a family fraternal service organization with a strong rural connection and a historic relationship with agriculture. We value kindness to animals and respect for agriculture, and we recognize the importance of animal welfare. However, this ballot measure takes a misguided approach that would cripple vital farming and ranching practices, disrupt recreational activities, and hinder the ability of families to care for their pets.

IP 28 would impose stringent regulations that could lead to significant economic fallout. Farmers, guides, veterinarians, farriers, and others who depend on animal-related occupations would face job losses and reduced income. The ripple effect of these job losses would not only impact individuals but also threaten the livelihoods of entire communities that rely on agriculture and tourism.

Moreover, the measure's restrictions would necessitate the importation of meat and animal products, leading to increased costs for Oregonians. This shift would not only burden average citizens with higher prices but could also result in increased pollution and environmental impact due to the transportation of food from outside the state. Our local farmers are committed to sustainable practices, and this measure would undermine their efforts to provide fresh, locally sourced food.

Additionally, Oregon's tourist industry, which thrives on outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing, would suffer. By limiting access to these activities, IP 28 would deter visitors and negatively affect local economies reliant on tourism.

In conclusion, while we advocate for animal welfare, the far-reaching implications of IP 28 would outweigh any potential benefits. The Oregon State Grange believes that a more balanced approach is necessary—one that supports animal care while also protecting the livelihoods of those who work with animals and ensuring the economic stability of our rural communities.