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Crook County Democrats condemn Initiative Petition 28 (IP28), a proposed ban on hunting, fishing, and animal agriculture

Ballot measure would redefine the legal status of animals, directly impacting farmers, ranchers, anglers, and hunters, and causing significant job losses

Prineville, Ore., May 19, 2026 — Crook County Democrats have unanimously adopted a [resolution opposing Initiative Petition 28 \(IP28\)](#), known as the People for the Elimination of Animal Cruelty Exemptions (PEACE) Act.

The [proposed 2026 Oregon ballot measure](#) would remove existing legal exceptions for hunting, fishing, trapping, and farming from state animal abuse laws. If enacted, it would effectively criminalize these activities by classifying the killing or intentional injury of most animals as criminal animal abuse.

The measure would eliminate many of the exemptions currently in Oregon's animal cruelty laws, thereby extending broader protections against abuse, neglect, and killing. Fishing, slaughtering livestock, conducting animal research, and even pest control would be effectively banned and classified as crimes if Initiative Petition 28 qualifies for the ballot and is approved by voters. While exemptions would remain for self-defense and veterinary practices, most protections that currently apply to dogs and cats would be extended to salmon, deer, and cattle.

Oregon's agricultural industry is far more than a collection of businesses — it is a \$5 billion economic engine that supports more than 80,000 jobs. Yet by criminalizing animal slaughter and standard animal husbandry, IP28 would effectively bring animal agriculture in the state to an end. Processing plants, dairies, and ranches would shut down almost overnight, leaving a vacuum that out-of-state and international producers would quickly move to fill.

In light of these sweeping implications, the Crook County Democrats urge voters, community leaders, and policymakers across Oregon to closely examine IP28 and its

far-reaching economic and social consequences. While the responsible treatment of animals is a shared value, this measure goes far beyond preventing cruelty and instead threatens the livelihoods of tens of thousands of Oregonians, the stability of our \$5 billion agricultural sector, and the state's long-term food security. The party stands firmly opposed to IP28 and calls for more balanced, practical approaches to animal welfare that do not criminalize essential agricultural, research, and pest-management practices.

About Crook County Democrats

[Crook County Democrats](#) are dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for Democrats in local, state, and national elections, as well as for people and organizations that share their values. Their work is guided by a commitment to building an inclusive and equitable community that offers a bright future for all Americans.

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