

Ohio Valley Dog Owners Inc.

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Marlene Anielski, Chair
Ohio House State & Local Government Committee
77 S. High St
12th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215


Chairman Anielski and committee members:

Ohio Valley Dog Owners Inc., a coalition of dog owners, breeders, trainers, and exhibitors and dog-related clubs, promotes responsible dog ownership and the joy of a partnership with pets and working dogs. We support HB 539, the bill that would designate the Labrador Retriever as Ohio's state dog.

Purebred dogs in general have worked with their owners and partners in a variety of capacities ranging from gentle and devoted family companions to faithful working dogs. However, few breeds have the temperament and intelligence to excel in the variety of tasks that the Labrador Retriever can perform. Labs shine as family pets, obedience and agility competitors, hunting companions, and search and rescue workers. They serve police departments as trackers, drug finders, and bomb sniffers, and aid fire departments in searches for accelerants. They are dependable helpers for those with physical disabilities, and they help service members with traumatic injuries and PTSD to reintegrate into society.

In short, the Labrador Retriever deserves his spot at the top of the AKC popularity list of purebred dogs, both in the US and in our state. The claim that HB 539 would result in an increase in poor breeding practices or more shelter euthanasias is propaganda from an agenda-driven fundraising organization and should be recognized as such. The Labrador Retriever would be a fitting official dog for the Buckeye State.

Sincerely,



Norma Bennett Woolf
Ohio Valley Dog Owners Inc.