

Bob Barker

P.O. Box 57227, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

June 18, 2014

To: Interim Zoo Director Teri Dresler
Portland Metro Council President Tom Hughes
Portland Metro Council Members

Dear Ms. Dresler, Mr Hughes and Metro Councilors,

I have devoted much of my time to helping animals and have been an advocate for releasing elephants to sanctuaries for many years. In October of last year, the three elephants from the Toronto Zoo were successfully retired to the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS). As you may be aware, PAWS provides elephants with space to walk, forage and swim and live their lives to the full. They have a chance to interact as the highly social and intelligent creatures they are.

I hope you will understand my concern when the circumstances surrounding the Oregon Zoo elephants were brought to my attention. In particular that of the senior elephant, Packy, who I understand has served for 52 years as an icon for the people of Oregon, now suffers most acutely at his advanced age. His ailments include tuberculosis and painful joint and foot disease, among others. Packy also suffers from stereotypic head bobbing, a sign of extreme stress that is typical of elephants confined in zoos.

In 2008 you sold a 125 million dollar bond specifically to create an off site preserve to provide more space for the zoo's elephants. Instead of doing so, you made plans for a remote center for bringing in more captive elephants and to establish an additional breeding program. Meanwhile, you are spending \$57 million to establish Elephant Lands as a new exhibit. The Kenya Wildlife Service protects tens of thousands of elephants in the wild with an annual budget of less than half that amount ! Despite the enormous sum of money spent, Elephant Lands will provide no meaningful relief for the zoo's eight Asian elephants.

Packy's entire life has been devoted to entertaining thousands of the paying public at the Oregon Zoo. After 52 years of service, Packy deserves to be sent to a place where he can enjoy his final years in peace and serenity. I strongly urge you to provide Packy with the retirement he so richly deserves.

Sincerely,



Bob Barker