

**President**

Matthew Novak, Ph.D.  
Department of Social Sciences  
Central Oregon  
Community College  
Bend, OR 97703  
mnovak@cocc.edu

**President-Elect**

Dr. Paul A. Garber  
Department of Anthropology  
Program in Ecology,  
Evolution, and Conservation  
Biology  
University of Illinois  
Urbana, Illinois 61801 USA  
p-garber@illinois.edu

**Past President**

Lynne Isbell, Ph.D.  
Department of Anthropology  
University of California, Davis  
One Shields Ave.  
Davis CA 95616  
laisbell@ucdavis.edu

**Treasurer**

Kristine Coleman, Ph.D.  
Oregon National Primate  
Research Center  
Beaverton, OR 97006  
colemank@ohsu.edu

**Executive Secretary**

Ashley N. Edes, PhD  
Department of Reproductive and  
Behavioral Sciences  
Saint Louis Zoo  
One Government Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63110  
aedes@stlzoo.org

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1111 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

17 June 2024

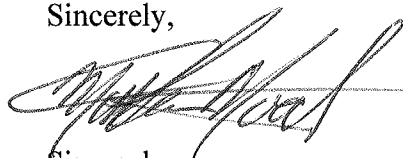
Dear Representative Blumenauer:

The American Society of Primatologists (<https://asp.org/>) is North America's largest professional organization of scientists, researchers, and professors dedicated to the study of nonhuman primates. Our over 650 members work in zoos, research labs, sanctuaries, conservation organizations, and universities, and study primates in both wild and captive settings. Among our society's goals are to support primate research, to ensure the conservation and welfare of primates, and to educate the public and policymakers about primates.

Given our knowledge and experience, we fully support the Captive Primate Safety Act (CPSA of 2024) (H.R. 8164) which prohibits the import, export, interstate transportation, possession, and breeding of all primate species for private use, particularly as pets in private homes. Primates that are kept as pets experience severe psychological, emotional, and, often, physical trauma. This legislation not only protects primate welfare, but also contributes to public safety. Adult primates are large, powerful, and can physically attack their owners as well as other members of the public. In addition, given the many genetic similarities between primates and humans, they are susceptible to numerous human diseases, and they can transmit these diseases to the public. Although the extent of the primate trade in the U.S. has not been closely monitored, it is estimated to be at least 15,000 individuals. Primates are wild animals, and they cannot be, nor should be, living in peoples' homes.

Our society lends our professional support to the Captive Primate Safety Act, and we are available to speak with interested legislators and testify in support of the bill. Passage of the CPSA will promote primate welfare, public safety, public awareness, and protect wild primate populations.

Sincerely,



Sincerely,  
Matthew Novak, President ASP