



577 18<sup>th</sup> Street Astoria, OR 97103  
(503) 468-0921  
Info@northcoastfoodweb.org  
www.northcoastfoodweb.org

February 2, 2021

In support of HB 2785 for more access to meat processing

To Whom It May Concern:

NCFW is a coalition of people and organizations building connections in the local food landscape on the Northern Oregon Coast and Lower Columbia Pacific Region. Part of our mission is to support our local food producers. In particular we assist them with marketing and sales avenues such as hosting events for chefs, restaurants and institutional buyers to meet their local farmers and food producers. To help community engagement and the general public to find more ways to buy local food, we produce and distribute local food guides highlighting the amazing food producers of our region and how to buy from them. We also host a weekly "Small Farms Market Day" to help expand food producers' retail exposure and build sales.

We know that increasing the amount of locally sourced food purchased by individuals, restaurants, hospitals and schools will strengthen our regional food system. Our growing region and sales market in the North Coast supports sales from our local meat producers to other areas in Oregon and Washington. We constantly hear that access to USDA processing (both distance and scheduling) limits our livestock producers' abilities to sell direct to restaurants, institutions and via retail direct to consumers. Ultimately this translates to less food dollars staying in our community. *HB 2785 would help develop meat processing in our region which will keep more dollars in the pockets of our local food producers and food businesses.*

We look forward to continuing playing a role in creating more opportunities for food producers so that we can achieve a more resilient food system while improving access to healthy, locally sourced food for our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessika Tantisook", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessika Tantisook  
Executive Director, North Coast Food Web  
jessika@northcoastfoodweb.org