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January 25, 2021

The Honorable Jeff Golden, Chair  
Senate Natural Resources and  
Wildlife Recovery Committee  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: SB 36 – Amends Fee Cap for Registration of Commercial Feed Brand**

Dear Senator Golden:

This letter is intended to offer a perspective from the members served by the Oregon Cattlemen's Association in every Oregon County. SB 36 as drafted amends the fee cap for registration of commercial feed. It is understood our producers will be impacted at some level, but it is not anticipated this fee increase will be tremendously impactful to our industry.

However, we offer this for your consideration and awareness. This Legislative Session comes with many obstacles notwithstanding being convened in a virtual setting due to concerns for public safety and management of COVID-19 infection rate which affects access to the Capitol building, legislators, and key staff. The cumulative effect of fee increases that will follow SB 36 are numerous. Commodity producers who are expected to absorb the fees with no opportunity to pass additional costs on as they market their beef are on the front line and feeling the impacts of existing regulations and current fees association with doing business.

We would respectfully request you and your colleagues approach every piece of legislation that impacts the costs associated with producing food in Oregon with additional scrutiny and sensitivity. One thing the early days of the pandemic made consumers aware of was the fragile nature of our food supply system from the farm to the processor and to the market. The system quickly recovered, but there were weeks of empty meat displays in grocery stores. Ranchers have continued to produce beef for the market throughout the pandemic.

Thank you for your awareness and consideration throughout this Legislative Session.

Respectfully,

Tom Sharp, President  
OREGON CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION