

I would like to thank this committee for affording me the opportunity to submit my opposition to SB 32.

My husband and I are cattle producers in Eastern Oregon, so SB 32 would have a direct financial impact on us, as well as other cattle producers, brand owners and feedlot owners. While we support the brand inspection program and understand how vital it is to our industry, we simply cannot support such large increases. A brand application fee, a brand renewal, an activation fee and brand transfers would all double in this proposed bill. Brand inspection fees per head would increase up to 50%. Most cattle producers operate on small profit margins, thus the increase in fees, can have a significant, negative impact.

In the private sector, when prices are low and costs continue to rise, we look for other solutions to ensure success in our business. One solution is to scrutinize the budget and search for ways to decrease spending. However, it seems our governor and some agencies immediately want to increase fees or find a way to tax individuals or businesses in lieu of curbing spending.

We are in the middle of a pandemic that has affected all Oregonians and our industries. This is a time to be frugal and look for alternative ways to address the budget shortfall. I strongly urge this committee to not support this bill!

Thank you for your time.