

SB32

Committee on Natural Resource and Wildlife Recovery

My name is Rebecca Kingen and my husband and I raise cattle in Harney County as well as work for another ranching operation. I would like to testify that I strongly oppose SB32. My husband and I are in our first years of being able to run our own cattle and are looking to be able to continue to expand over the next many years. We also want it to be something that our children can take over and make a living off of someday as well. With the increase in fees (a different name for taxes) all over this bill, this will make it difficult on both of those agendas. I agree with having brand inspections, but the increase in fees is more money out of our pockets. The increase in all fees all across the board makes it harder and harder for ranchers and feedlots and others in the industry to continue to survive at making a living feeding this state and nation,

These ranchers also employ people like my husband and I to help on the ranches. The increase fees will put a burden on employment in the ranches as well. The burden of a tax is always passed down somehow. This includes all Oregonians, because in the end, prices will increase in the stores as well I believe.

All in the ag industry work hard as it is already to make a well enough profit margin, if one at all, just to put food on their own tables. Most have a spouse that has another job just to be able to make ends meet. Anyone in the ag community chooses this way of life for the love of it. You can not wake up everyday and hate your profession of raising livestock and expect good outcomes. There is a lot of pride in what we do. Increased fees, taxing us to the brink of extinction would have grave consequences for the future of the industry.

Instead of looking at increasing fees, why not look at budget spending. There must be a place where budget spending could be cut in some places to save the ag industry from taking on more fees and taxes. Like I mentioned before, the burden is always passed down somehow, and this would effect all Oregon in the future.

Please do not support this bill. Please help keep our ranchers and farmers and more in the industry in business this way.

Thank you for your time.

Rebecca Kingen