

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Dear Chair and committee members I am opposed to this bill in it's current form. My wife and I own and operate a relatively small cattle and hay & ranch in Harney County.

Cost of living adjustments ordinarily range from about 1.5 to 3.7 percent annually. The inflation rate and other economic realities determine what that increase should be. In light of that, it makes no sense to me how an increase of up to 50% for brand inspections and 100% for applications fees, registrations, and transfers can be asked for let alone actually considered.

The good work the Brand Department performs each year is very much appreciated and I think needs to continue. I also think a better approach for those desiring an increase would be to justify the need for such a huge jump in costs. In other words - do the math and let us see it. Follow the lead of the private sector, tighten belts, do more for less, cut waste, then, and only then, ask for a moderate increase to make the budget work.

40 years of progressive Oregon politics, taxes, regulations have hindered working folks ability to get ahead and stay ahead. We simply cannot be expected to pay increases like those in this bill, and so many others, just because that is what Salem wants. I ask that this bill be amended and much smaller more appropriate increase, if actually needed.

Again, thank you for your time in considering my testimony. Keith Baltzor