

Submitter: Pat Mallon

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB479

Good Morning.

My wife and I raise cattle and have a direct meat marketing business. Occasionally, we have an animal that doesn't meet the standards of our business. However, it would still be an incredible portion source for many who don't have the means. We view this as a noble end to these animals that in most cases have provided for us for years.

I have also at a point in my life been one without food. So, I understand the value and difference this beef could make.

Currently, we would have to ship these cattle 200 miles to our USDA Processor to be able to donate this beef. And, we would have to have three of them for the processor to do it. We never have 3. So, it ultimately eliminates the option of helping those who work hard to supply what seems to be an ever increasing need in our county.

I'm not certain this Bill solves that. My understanding was this was a USDA decision that stopped allowing the use of Custom Exempt facilities. However, in talking to people that have worked for the State and County Health department, we have never had an incident of food safety issues from these Custom Exempt plants that they are aware of. Passing this Bill at a minimum starts the conversation on how we can move forward with supplying our local population in need with a better portion source. If the USDA isn't the issue, it gets us back on track to helping our local community.

Thanks for your time and best of luck in this legislative session,