

Submitter: Niki Sampson  
On Behalf Of: Klamath-Lake Counties Food Ban  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Measure: SB479

April 20, 2023

Oregon Legislature  
Salem, OR. 97310

Ref: SB 479

My name is Niki Sampson. I've been the CEO of the Klamath-Lake Counties Food Bank since 1997.

Klamath Falls is ag country and has been for generations. Cattle country has provided much needed food for our region and many others across our great land.

When our local USDA processing plant closed a decade or so ago, our donations of beef came to a screeching halt. Ranchers having the ability to donate beef to help their friends and neighbors all but disappeared.

In early 2000's a loophole was found by our state senator at the time. This gave us the ability to accept beef donations through state regulated local facilities if the meat went out through a loophole of "serving our guests (people in need)." This was a lifeline until that loophole was removed. This was a major blow to our program and the people we feed.

We are hoping a decision will be made to allow state regulated meat processors to process our rancher's generous gift of high-quality protein to the communities they love.

It's ironic with the number of cattle raised in the Basin, we can't take advantage of Rancher's generosity.

Forever grateful for this opportunity,

Niki Sampson,  
Executive Director