

Re: HB 2164 Testimony
January 20, 2025

To: Co-Chairs Helm & Owens and all members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Wildfire

From: Scott & Lynne Van Dusen, Birkeland Farm, Portland OR

This testimony letter is to urge support for HB 2164 with the needed funding to make the State Meat Inspection Program a success.

We are a small farm business in the Portland/Oregon City area, producing beef cattle and bringing quality meat products to market. We heavily rely on our regional meat processors & inspectors to be successful, which can easily become overburdened with demand. Too often our farm and other small operations are met with delays and/or cancellations at a processing facility due to limited capacity.

Oregon's State Meat Inspection Program can expand processing/inspection services and enable many more small farm businesses to thrive in our state. The funding for staffing in HB 2164 is critical to the success of the program.

It cannot be emphasized enough the critical role of the processing facility to an Agricultural Farmer. The inability to bring an animal to slaughter and process due to lack of options is crippling to a farm, as well as a detriment to the health and well-being of the animal.

Current processing options are very restrictive and many small farms cannot find available services. HB 2164 funding is urgent. This is what supporting Small Farms is all about.

We urge you to support HB 2164 and enable the State Meat Inspection Program to fund necessary inspector capacity, and fulfill its promise to Oregon's Local Small Livestock producers.