

Submitter: Nadja Sanders
On Behalf Of: Butler Creek Farm
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2164

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Wildfire:

My name is Nadja Sanders and I am a cattle rancher from Reedsport. I am writing today to support HB 2164 and tell you how crucial it is that we take the final steps to make the State Meat Inspection program successful. It is crucial that Oregon have the infrastructure to enable our hardworking farmers and ranchers to bring their livestock to market. The state currently has too few USDA inspected facilities to meet demand and small farms are often given 12 month wait times for appointments to get their animals processed. The State Meat Inspection Program can alleviate this bottleneck and allow more farms to thrive here, reduce their travel and processing costs, and allow small farms to meet the growing demand for local pasture raised meat.

This personally impacts me because:

We have very few options for butchering our grass-fed, grass-finished, pasture raised cattle. Our processor drives two hours each way to get to us. We are only able to butcher once a year because they are so over-booked and stretched thin. If we have a sudden expected need to butcher an animal, there are no options.

We are grateful that we can provide a high quality product to our customers (and not have to send all our cattle to auction), but even on our very small scale, we only have one option for a butcher willing and able to come all the way out to us near Reedsport.

The state has already devoted so many resources and staff hours to the establishment of the State Meat Inspection Program and qualifying facilities. Do not let the program fail to meet its promises because of a lack of inspector capacity.

Please support HB 2164 and fulfill the promises our state has made to its local livestock producers.

Thank you,

Nadja Sanders

Butler Creek Farm, Inc.