

Submitter: Sarah Tynan

On Behalf Of: Source Farms

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure or Topic: HB2164

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

As stewards of the land and proud members of Yamhill County's regenerative farming community, we are writing to express our strong support for HB 2164 and the establishment of the State Meat Inspection Program. This critical initiative aligns perfectly with our commitment to providing high-quality, locally raised food to our neighbors while ensuring the sustainable management of our natural resources.

On our founding farm and working closely with the farmers in our network, we prioritize practices that enhance soil health, protect water quality, and promote biodiversity. These regenerative methods are not only better for the environment but also yield healthier, more nutrient-dense livestock. However, the lack of accessible, state-inspected meat processing facilities poses significant challenges to small-scale farmers like us who are dedicated to serving our local communities.

Currently, limited access to USDA-inspected facilities forces many farmers to transport their animals long distances for processing. This not only increases costs and environmental impacts but also places undue stress on the animals, affecting the quality of the final product. By enabling a State Meat Inspection Program, HB 2164 would:

1. **Increase Accessibility:** Provide farmers with more local processing options, reducing transportation times and associated expenses.
2. **Enhance Food Security:** Strengthen the local food system by ensuring a steady supply of fresh, locally raised meat for Oregon's communities.
3. **Support Small Farmers:** Level the playing field for small-scale producers by reducing barriers to market entry and enabling more direct-to-consumer sales.
4. **Boost Local Economies:** Create jobs and foster economic growth in rural areas by supporting local processing facilities.

The passage of HB 2164 would be a step forward for farmers and consumers. It would empower us to better meet the growing demand for ethically raised, high-quality meat while maintaining the integrity of our farming practices. Furthermore, it would strengthen the connection between producers and consumers, fostering a resilient food system that prioritizes community well-being and sustainability.

We urge you to support HB 2164 and help Oregon's farmers continue to provide safe, healthy, and sustainably produced food for our communities. Together, we can build a more vibrant and self-reliant agricultural economy that reflects the values we all share. Thank you for your time and consideration. We would be happy to discuss this further or provide additional insights from the perspective of regenerative farmers in Yamhill County.

Sincerely,

Sarah Tynan
CEO Source Farms
Yamhill County