

Submitter: Teagan Moran

On Behalf Of:

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 Teagan Moran, and I am a livestock farmer in Albany, Oregon. I am writing today to express my strong support for HB 2164.

Meat processing is a significant gap in meat production in Oregon. The local processor I have been using is going out of business, and accessing other options is challenging and stressful for us and our animals. Our farm has had to book processing dates later than our preference, which negatively impacts the land, increases our costs and can impact the quality of meat. The variability also impacts our relationship with customers. Processing issues can impact customer satisfaction and the farmer is often blamed. Additionally, I am aware of farmers who choose not to raise livestock, even if their land is most suitable for it, due to the lack of processors in their area. With profit margins being as small as they are, many of us cannot afford to travel long distances for processing, not to mention the stress on the animals impacting animal welfare, farmer mental health, and the quality of the meat.

The State Meat Inspection Program can alleviate this bottleneck, allowing more farms to thrive, reducing travel and processing costs, and enabling small farms to meet the growing demand for local, pasture-raised meat.

The state has already devoted significant resources and staff hours to establishing the State Meat Inspection Program and qualifying facilities. Please do not let the program fail to meet its promises due to a lack of inspector capacity. I urge you to support HB 2164 and fulfill the promises our state has made to its local livestock producers.

Thank you,  
Teagan Moran  
Open Arms Farm  
Albany, Oregon