

Submitter: lisa jenson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2164

Submitter: Lisa Jenson

On Behalf Of: Source Farms

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

Measure or Topic: HB 2164

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

As dedicated farmers and active members of Yamhill County's regenerative agriculture community, we are writing to express our strong support for HB 2164 and the creation of a State Meat Inspection Program. This initiative is an essential step toward improving local food systems and aligns closely with our values of providing our neighbors with nutritious, locally produced food while responsibly managing our natural resources.

At Source Farms, and in collaboration with the farmers in our network, we are committed to regenerative practices that nurture soil health, conserve water, and promote biodiversity. These practices not only benefit the environment but also result in healthier, more nutrient-rich livestock. However, the current lack of accessible, state-inspected meat processing options presents a significant barrier for small-scale farmers like us, who are committed to serving local communities.

The absence of nearby USDA-inspected facilities forces many farmers to transport their livestock long distances for processing, which increases both costs and environmental impact, while also putting unnecessary stress on the animals. By establishing a State Meat Inspection Program, HB 2164 would:

1. Increase Accessibility: Offer more local processing options, reducing transportation times and costs.
2. Strengthen Food Security: Support Oregon's local food system by ensuring a consistent supply of fresh, locally raised meat.
3. Assist Small Farmers: Help level the playing field for small-scale producers by making it easier to access processing facilities and reach consumers directly.
4. Stimulate Local Economies: Create jobs and drive economic growth in rural communities by supporting local processing infrastructure.

Passing HB 2164 would be a significant step forward for both farmers and consumers. It would allow us to meet the growing demand for ethically raised, high-quality meat while preserving the principles of sustainable farming. In addition, it would strengthen the bond between producers and consumers, contributing to a more resilient food system based on community health and sustainability.

We strongly encourage 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, self-sufficient agricultural economy that reflects our shared values.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We would be happy to further discuss this issue or offer additional insights from the perspective of regenerative farmers in Yamhill County.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jenson

Source Farms