

Submitter: Deanna Waters Senf

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 Deanna Waters Senf and I am a community member from Eagle Point, Oregon. 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 I buy locally raised meat and work with small meat producers to sell their products. I hear many concerns about the issues and costs with not being able to process their animals closer to home. As I also assist nutrition directors to source local, the need is great to increase the availability and lower the cost of locally produced meat. I wish to improve our access and quality as well as mitigate harms within the animal experience prior to slaughter by not travelling or waiting hours in crowded trucks.

Our community believes in and will support local meat processing to improve our local food supply.

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,
Deanna Waters Senf
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