

Submitter: Kathy Schliesmayer

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 Kathy Schliesmayer and I am a community member from Salem, Oregon. I am writing today to support HB 2164. 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. This is far too long for the farmers and animals to wait, costing extra money for the farmers, which is then added to the cost for consumers. The State Meat Inspection Program can alleviate this bottleneck and allow more farms to thrive here, reduce their travel and processing costs, allowing small farms to meet the growing demand for local pasture raised meat.

This personally impacts me because I have found it difficult to find a reliable local farmer whom I can purchase meat from. I have changed my diet to a carnivore diet and through this process of 16 months, I have been able to heal numerous health issues. It is critical to me and my family to have locally raised meat to continue on my healthy journey. With the addition of more Meat Inspectors this would allow more meat products to be available to the public and give us a chance at fair market prices. It would allow for farmers to have a reliable facility where their animals could be processed in a timely manner. I would absolutely LOVE this!! Please, Please consider supporting HB 2164. Thank you!!

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