

Submitter: Barbara Talley  
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 Barbara Talley and I'm a small farmer from Junction City. I'm 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 essential 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 issue personally impacts me because while I primarily raise sheep for dairy use and breeding stock, I often need to process cull lambs for meat. Since I'm not sure how many I will have or exactly when they'll be ready for harvest from year to year, it's difficult to schedule slaughter dates almost a year in advance. I would appreciate having the flexibility to schedule dates within a few weeks or months to better suit my needs.

I also care deeply for the humane treatment of my animals and indeed all animals destined for slaughter. As part of that humane treatment, transport times should be minimized to reduce the animals' stress. Indeed, on-farm slaughter by state-inspected mobile units would be the ideal situation for most small producers and their animals. Funding inspectors through HB 1264 could make this a reality for more small livestock producers around the state.

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,

Barbara Talley  
94570 Oaklea Dr.  
Junction City, OR 97448