



Locally Grown
and
GROWING STRONG

January 23, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources & Water

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice Chair Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is the state's most inclusive agriculture organization, proudly representing over 6,600 family farms and ranches that produce more than 250 agricultural commodities. From hops to hazelnuts, cattle to caneberries, and operations spanning from just a few to thousands of acres, our members encompass all farming methods, including organic, conventional, biotech, and no-tech.

OFB is supportive of House Bill 2164, which funds a meat inspection program and bolsters the retention and expansion of small commercial meat packing facilities. The bill's provision for two full-time equivalent positions this biennium, with additional access to federal funds, is vital to ensuring livestock inspection, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

Access to inspection services is crucial for livestock producers and the economic vitality of rural Oregon. Oregon's farmers and ranchers provide essential contributions to our state's economy and communities by producing high-quality products renowned nationally and globally. Remarkably, 96% of Oregon's farms and ranches are family-owned and operated, underscoring the critical role of family-scale operations in delivering the benefits that Oregonians enjoy from local agriculture.

We are proud to represent Oregon's family farmers and ranchers who, despite mounting challenges, remain steadfast in their commitment to providing food, fiber, and other resources for Oregon and beyond. OFB urges your support for this bill.

Sincerely,

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