

Submitter: Rose Walker Patterson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1019

As an active producer of cattle, hay, and grain in Oregon, I submit this written testimony in support of SB 1019. This is for a variety of reasons but primarily for repeal of the state-run Oregon brand program and in support of the counties to establish the brand programs.

The Oregon brand department, combined with a variety of other unrelated programs, is antiquated, inefficient, disconnected, provides very poor customer service and no communication. It has a marginal reputation throughout the state and the recorder's office has the lowest productivity in all 50 states through its policy and pride in denying essentially all brand applications. They do not have any data to refute this statement. They do not serve the producers or help the next generation of producers. It is no wonder that combined with overall mismanagement poor work ethics, it has financial issues as well. Problems with the recorder's office have gone unchecked, unaddressed, over-looked, unidentified for years. Lack of improvement is so long-standing and advanced that almost any efforts to solve issues would likely not be viable in terms of the time or expense it would take. I agree with Senator Nash and others that it is a lost cause. It would be much better to close the state program and let the counties manage inspections and the program locally.

The exceptions to the above issues are the local brand inspectors who are engaged with producers and integrated in the community. They represent the brand department well and continually work in damage control efforts; to fix problems created in the recorder's office who are completely disconnected from the producers they are supposed to serve. I whole-heartedly support moving the program to the counties where producers will be best served. Thank you.