

Submitter: William Schultz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB976

February 19, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SB 976:

Chairman Golden and members of the committee,

I am writing to you today to express my support of SB 976. As an Oregon horse and cattle owner SB 976 is extremely important to my business operations and the health of my livestock.

Like many other states Oregon is facing a serious crisis in the lack of available large animal veterinarians. This is making access to care very difficult while making veterinary care virtually unaffordable.

Passage of SB 976 would allow horse and cattle owners the right to choose from another group of professionals who are fully competent and more than qualified to provide dental care for our horses or verify the pregnancy of cattle. In fact, many horse owners already prefer using an Equine Dentist over their Veterinarian due to the level of dental focused education they received versus Veterinarians and the specialized skill set they spent years focusing on that makes them so thorough and proficient at what they do. Furthermore, pregnancy verification, also known as "preg checking" is a fundamental skill of large animal veterinary practitioners in Oregon which was traditionally taught at a young age through programs such as the Future Farmers of America. It is my belief that the passage of OR SB 976 would not only help alleviate financial and logistical burden for livestock producers, but may also provide incentives to youths seeking employment in the field of agriculture.

Please pass SB 976, there are not enough Veterinarians currently to handle the workload while horses and cattlemen are suffering as a result, and our future large animal caregivers seem nonexistent.

Best regards,

William C. Schultz
Mitchell Oregon