

Subject: Testimony Regarding SCR 13 Designates the T-Bone as the official state steak

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Rules, Oregon State Legislature:

My name is Gabrielle Molinari Homer, and I am involved in both the cattle and beef industries residing in Fossil, Oregon. I am writing to respectfully submit my testimony regarding SCR 13, a bill concerning the designation of the T-Bone as the Oregon official state steak.

Upon hearing that in the last legislative session the potato was designated the state vegetable, it seemed like a natural process for us to support a steak on the same plate. As the great State of Oklahoma had already designated the ribeye as their state steak, we felt we wanted to recommend something different. We settled on the T-Bone Steak for several reasons:

It is the blend of two delicious cuts of steak, being sourced from both the New York strip and the tenderloin, joined by a bone in the middle. This feels naturally symbolic to us as the two beautiful sides of Oregon, West and East, coming together as one whole experience with the Cascade Mountains represented by the bone. As a lifelong Oregonian that has resided in both the Willamette Valley and the John Day Basin, I appreciate every chance we get to collaborate and be represented across county lines and party lines.

- Cattle are raised in all 36 counties of Oregon, with cattle and calves typically the number one or number two agricultural commodity in dollar volume. Recognizing our hard-working ranchers and the wonderful, nutritious beef they raise throughout the state is a unifying thread. Rather than focus on what divides us, we can focus on a commodity that reflects a state-wide effort.
- As a resident of Wheeler County, the least populated county in the state of Oregon, I feel like recognizing beef in general acknowledges the hard work out of farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers equally on the frontier and in cities, on the ranches and farms and in the urban grocery markets and restaurants at the same time. This further binds us together in our mutual focus on nutrition and health of the land.
- Beef provides about 50% or more daily recommended value of B₁₂, Zinc, Protein and Selenium as part of a balanced diet. Just a 3 oz serving provides a significant amount of 10 essential nutrients.

For these and many other reasons, I wholeheartedly support SCR 13 and the designation of the T-Bone as the Oregon State Steak.

I urge the committee to consider the unifying value of highlighting Oregon agriculture, the representation of the two sides of Oregon being brought together in one steak and the acknowledgement of the hard-working farmers, ranchers and other related parties that keep us fed and healthy in our beautiful state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Homer

Oregon CattleWomen Association President-Elect

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