

February 21, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
Oregon State Legislature

RE: Support of SB 976

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is the state's most inclusive agriculture organization, proudly representing over 6500 family farms and ranches that produce more than 220 agricultural commodities. From hops and hazelnuts to cattle, cranberries, and timber with operations spanning from just a few acres to thousands, our members utilize all farming methods including organic, conventional, regenerative, biotech, and even no-tech.

SB 976 addresses a pressing challenge in Oregon's agricultural sector: the accessibility of essential animal health services, particularly in rural areas where large-animal veterinarian resources are scarce and our livestock industry is underserved. This bill would allow properly trained and certified individuals to perform specific and routine animal health procedures—such as equine dentistry and cattle pregnancy verification—without the accessibility limitations of a full veterinary license in Oregon's rural areas. By doing so, SB 976 provides a practical and necessary solution to ensure the well-being of Oregon's livestock.

The shortage of large-animal veterinarians in rural communities threatens both animal welfare and agricultural viability. By enabling trained professionals to perform routine procedures within their expertise, this bill helps bridge the veterinary care gap while ensuring livestock owners can responsibly maintain the health of their animals. Furthermore, it allows for the more efficacious use of our qualified veterinarians to focus on critical, non-routine animal care. The Oregon Farm Bureau supports SB 976 because it enhances access to important animal health services and promotes the more efficient use of limited resources without imposing undue regulatory burdens.

Importantly, this bill maintains strong safeguards for animal welfare. By directing the Oregon Department of Agriculture to establish guidelines and training requirements, SB 976 ensures that only qualified individuals perform these procedures, thus protecting

livestock while providing livestock producers the tools and flexibility they need to manage their complex livestock operations as efficiently as possible.

For these reasons, we urge your support for SB 976. This legislation offers a balanced, responsible approach to improving access to animal care in Oregon's rural communities while maintaining our shared goal of high standards for animal health.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan J. Krabill', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ryan J. Krabill
Oregon Farm Bureau