

Submitter: Morgan Kromm
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB986

My name is Morgan Kromm, and I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 986, which appropriates funding to the State Department of Agriculture for the brand inspection program.

Livestock brand inspection is a critical program that ensures the integrity of Oregon's cattle industry by preventing theft and verifying ownership. Without adequate funding, the program risks inefficiencies and potential gaps in enforcement that could harm ranchers and livestock owners throughout the state.

The passage of Senate Bill 986 is necessary to provide immediate financial resources to maintain and improve the program. However, it is also imperative that any funding allocated is used in a transparent and fiscally responsible manner. The recent financial mismanagement within the Oregon Department of Agriculture's brand inspection division, resulting in a \$1.2 million deficit, underscores the need for accountability in how these funds are distributed and utilized. Ranchers and stakeholders deserve clear and public reporting on how this money is spent to ensure the program remains sustainable and effective.

Additionally, I want to emphasize the importance of the sunset provision to brand inspection oversight. The brand inspection program must be subject to regular review to ensure that it remains an effective tool for livestock producers while operating in a financially responsible manner.

I urge the committee to support Senate Bill 986 while also ensuring that appropriate safeguards are in place for accountability and transparency. Oregon's ranching community relies on a strong, well-managed brand inspection program to protect their livelihoods and uphold the integrity of the livestock industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Morgan Kromm