

TARA MILLAN LAW

May 29, 2025

The Honorable Todd Nash
State Senator
900 Court Street, Northeast
S-421
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Bobby Levy
State Representative
900 Court Street, Northeast
H-385
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Kate Lieber
State Senator
900 Court Street Northeast
S-205
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Suzanne Weber
State Senator
900 Court Street Northeast
S-405
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Gregory Smith
State Representative
900 Court Street, Northeast
H-482
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: testimony regarding SCR 13, submitted via OLIS

Dear Senator Nash, Representative Levy, Senator Lieber, Senator Weber, Representative Smith, and members of the committee:

I support SCR 13 as a rancher in Southern Oregon, as a high-performance athlete, and as a fiercely proud Oregonian who loves her family, friends and who regularly welcomes and entertains visitors.

As a rancher in Southern Oregon, still living on the ranch where I grew up, I simply love the idea of honoring our industry with a state steak. Oregon's beef industry is the quiet darling of our ag economy. Beef works hard to boost Oregon's ag dollars and in 2022 was the second highest ag valued commodity. Over one billion dollars, in 2022 cash receipts, is what beef brought to the table. Ranching and the beef industry keep local economies in Oregon pushing forward. It is only fitting that a state steak be adopted to honor what ranching and beef cattle do for Oregon.

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As an athlete who climbs the big mountains, I train hard and require a great deal of protein to keep my performance level high. There is no better way to keep my body at peak performance levels than by incorporating lots of beef into my meals. A steak is one of my favorites ways to enjoy my protein, and a T-bone steak, with that lovely piece of tenderloin on the other side of the bone, is my favorite steak. I will share with you that my 2023 Denali summit team carefully carried T bone steaks from base camp up to 14,000 feet (right before the Headwall....but so far from the summit) so we could be assured of a high protein and delicious meal before our summit attempt. Yes, our packs were so heavy for days on end; those T bones were extra weight we chose to carry. However, we all agreed, exhausted as we were, and not wanting to talk much due to the exhaustion, that the smell of those T-bones cooking away on our MSR Whisperlite stove was heaven at high altitude. Hands down, the best T bone I have ever had.

Finally, as an Oregonian who loves to cook for her family, friends and for visitors, being able to offer the people I love a T bone as the state steak will be such a pleasure. To be able to share with visitors, as we pass the platter of T bones around the table, that Oregon honors its agriculture and its ranching families, and cares about what we put on our tables will be a joy. Whether taking visitors out to eat and finding our state steak on the menu, or feeding my visitors with love and care, on my own ranch, at my own table, being able to share with these folks that Oregon, by welcoming a a state steak, recognizes the value of the beef industry and ranching, will be my privilege.

That T bone steak, with its strip steak on one side and the lovely snippet of tenderloin on the other, is the perfect steak. Whether your T bone is on the grill outside, awaiting a bright chimichurri sauce to be laid across the plate as the brilliantly colored backdrop for your steak, or being cooked for worn out climbers at 14 camp on some mountain, somewhere, the T bone steak is deserving of being named Oregon's state steak.

Thank you for your advanced consideration of my written testimony in favor of SCR 13.
Let's eat!

Cordially
Tara Millan Law



Tara Millan
(Yankee Creek Ranch)

No enclosures: not even a recipe

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