

Chair Witt, Vice Chair Esquivel and committee

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony today. My name is Kelsey Ferry and I have lived in Lakeview Oregon my entire life. Lakeview is 90 miles east of Klamath Falls and I want to testify today regarding the impact on support business in our rural communities.

My parents own one of these support businesses. We own and operate a veterinary practice in Lakeview. I started working there walking dogs when I was 8- years old and have worked there on and off for years. My father employs at least 13 people and has employed many more members of the community throughout the years.

The drought and cut off won't just affect the ranchers and farmers, but our communities as a whole. Our communities rely on the agricultural production for our survival. Klamath County has a 10.3% unemployment rate already. With this impending drought that number will increase dramatically.

Many communities members will have no choice but to closed their businesses and move away. When this happens those businesses that support our non-profits, programs and services for those of limited mean suffers greatly. It affects the booster clubs, arts and culture, little league and education.

Agriculture is what makes our communities thrive and without it everybody in Klamath County will suffer, not just the rancher.

Therefore, I am here today to speak on behalf of my family business Lakeview Animal Hospital in favor of HB 4044. And for full disclosure purposes I am currently working as an LA for Representative Gail Whitsett.

Thank you Chair Witt, and Vice Chair Esquivel and the committee.

Kelsey Ferry

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