



February 8, 2017

Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Brad Witt, Co-Chairs  
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Honorable Co-Chairs,

Over the last 18 months, I've been building Sisters Meat and Smokehouse (SMS) in downtown Sisters following a 32-year career in the fire service. We opened SMS 6 months ago and feature exceptional cuts of meat from locally grown domestic stock, mix and smoke our own sausages, pepperoni, jerky and deli meats. We also incorporate those products into a limited menu. It was not a simple project to remodel a warehouse building for food service, meat processing and finished meat production. We knew we would need help.

Early in the process, we contacted Oregon Department of Agriculture and by extension, Jon Harrang who is field person for ODA in the Bend region. From our initial meeting with Jon and the architect to review plans through the final inspection and subsequent inspections...Jon Harrang has been the pinnacle of professionalism. Jon is prompt for meetings or he calls, he always dons his inspection jacket, shoes shined, personal attire immaculate, smile on his face, pocket full of examples and necessary tools, penlight at the ready. Jon diligently explains the rules and educates my team on what we need to do and how we can do better. It's clear from his demeanor that he wants us to be successful and keep the public safe. He has reminded us many times that we can't be successful if the public isn't safe and following the rules will help ensure both.

I've employed over a thousand people and dozens of inspectors during my career whose job it was to enforce the rules. I always sought inspectors who taught first and disciplined second. I looked for inspectors who were ambassadors for safety and their approach made it clear that their job was to protect the public and keep the business owner 'in business' by following safe practices. Jon Harrang is all of these things. There is something exceptional about an inspector that I look forward to seeing!

There is so much criticism of public institutions, their employees and of heavy-handed government...some of it well deserved. However, my experience with ODA through Jon Harrang has done nothing but build a strong appreciation for the work you are doing. Your folks are doing something very right at ODA and I want to thank you. While we may not always end up hearing good news from Jon, I will always be confident he's looking out for public safety and thereby our interests. Your work is noticed and appreciated by this particular taxpayer!

Greatest respect,

Jeffrey D. Johnson, President and CEO  
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