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Dear House Speaker Kotek and Senate President Courtney,

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) and the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association (ODFA) are in support of HB 4206, which would adopt rules establishing program of state inspection for processing and sale of meat products from amenable species, including but not limited to cattle and sheep.

OCA is the state's largest association focused on improving and protecting Oregon's cattle industry. OCA's mission is to promote environmentally and socially sound cattle industry practices and to protect industry communities. ODFA works on behalf of Oregon's nearly 200 licensed Grade A dairy farming families and is committed to promoting an atmosphere in Oregon for dairy farmers to prosper and grow.

Beef production is Oregon's second largest agricultural commodity. OCA and ODFA strongly believe that rules establishing state inspection for processing and meat sales will have extreme benefits for this industry. OCA has seen a huge interest over the past few months from consumers who want more resources to buy locally raised beef products. OCA has recently expanded to providing a digital directory to connect consumers to producers in Oregon and we have seen great interest and success.

Beef producers and processing owners in Oregon need to be supplied additional tools to continue the growth of their business and consumers deserve more access to locally raised beef products. This bill will expand those opportunities and create new opportunities for future business owners in this industry.

For these reasons, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association strongly support HB 4206 and the adoption of rules to establish state meat inspection in Oregon.