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Testimony of Oregon Farm Bureau in Support of HB 4206

June 24, 2020

Joint Interim Committee On The First Special Session of 2020

Co-Chairs Courtney and Kotek,

The Oregon Farm Bureau writes in support of HB 4206, which allows the Oregon Department of Agriculture to establish a program for the state inspection of the processing and sale of meat. Presently, meat can only be processed and sold by facilities licensed by the USDA. Local processing facilities can only process meat from animals owned by the person for whom the processing is taking place. In recent years, barriers to becoming a USDA licensed facility has resulted in a dramatic decline in licensed facilities, which has a significant impact on the ability of local farmers and ranchers to meet consumer demand at the local level and reach local markets.

HB 4206 would allow the Oregon Department of Agriculture to inspect local facilities, which would allow for farmers and ranchers to more easily process and sell their livestock in local Oregon markets. In a time of significant market disruption HB 4206 would help Oregon's farmers and ranchers vertically integrate and access new markets.

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