



We Feed You

SUPPORT -26 and -31 Amendments to HB 4212

Dear Committee Members:

Food Northwest supports amending HB 4212 with the -26 and -31 amendments.

Food Northwest is an association of food businesses that employ thousands of Oregonians in every corner of our state. We are part of a critical food supply chain whose operations often depend on seasons and our local ag economies. We are the people that feed you.

In order to keep the food supply moving to Oregonians and the world, it is critical that our state be a good partner supporting these Oregon businesses. These amendments are critical to that partnership.

The -26 Amendment removes troubling and problematic language (Sections 37-39) that would mandate new, unknown standards on our businesses without any clear understanding of how that standard would be arrived at, using what data and science, or whether that expensive rulemaking effort would have any impact on improving safety. This amendment is critical.

The -31 Amendment provides limited liability protection for businesses that continue to follow the Executive Orders and numerous public safety regulations designed to protect our communities and our workers. These regulations are not optional, but required. By working with the state and following the law, businesses should not be the subject of opportunistic lawsuits. As has been stated many times, we are all in this together. In that same spirit, please support the -31 Amendment that provides limited protections for responsible businesses following state and federal directives.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Smith", written in a cursive style.

Craig Smith
Director, Government Affairs