



HB 2785 - State Meat Inspection Program Grant Fund

February 2021

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HB 2785

Chair Witt and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jon Hagen. I am an advocate in Salem.

Oregon DOES NOT NEED more meat processing capacity, which is a climate-change detriment to our ecosystems and planet. The forests are clear cut for grazing, the mistreatment of the animals, and clear trend of declining demand for meat is evident.

I am asking you to vote to OPPOSE [HB 2785](#), which wastes \$10 million dollars of funds to expand and upgrade an archaic industry that is heralded for mistreatment, lacking oversight, and environmental damage. These funds boosting Oregon's economy could:

- Support local, direct to consumer innovative crops
- Increase regional food system resilience and rural economic development
- Support homegrown garden initiatives with free classes and education
- Invest in low carbon footprint alternatives to wasteful meat production
- Educate the public on the dangers of meat for clogged arteries and heart-attacks
- Provide a state-funded program on the future of lab-grown meat, which requires **600** times LESS water, food, clear-cut grazing land, and transport.

Having an innovative agricultural State program is important to me because the solutions we need for a healthy world depend on the innovation of present technology, not going back to prop up outdated industries. It means facing the challenge with compassion, with lab-grown technology, and the wits to move forward to address the heinous mistreatment.

Thank you,

Jon Hagen, Salem