

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Cate and Kropf, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for HB 2334. My name is Cheryl Martin.

As I read through already submitted testimonies, I found a common thread. Most all are multi-generational small business owners or work on generational farms and ranches. As am I. My grandchildren are the 8th generation to work in agriculture on our ranch. That is significant and one of the true values of so many small businesses. That aspect provides a strong connectivity to roots in America. It helps build character and work ethics and value systems that may be harder to learn if not for multi-generations. Small businesses are critical to the fabric of our society and democracy. They are the glue that holds our communities together. They are what supports our little leagues, our fairs and festivals, our school and church boards, our rodeos, food banks, and our neighbors who are in need. They are the brick and mortar of our country.

But life isn't easy for small business. In ranching, we are at the mercy of mother nature, the markets, the catastrophes of predators and disease, the burden of heavy handed regulations and burdensome fees, and yes, even pandemics. House bill 2334 is a great piece of legislation that seeks to acknowledge and aid small business in making sure that burdensome regulations that have significant economic impact to small business will need to uphold certain requirements that may already be in place or meet new requirements. Such requirements may be exemptions that allow for survival of small businesses or adopting less intrusive or less costly rules. This is common sense legislation that doesn't just help the bottom line for our small businesses, but in the end, helps all of our citizens, our communities and society. It is legislation that is critical and important for generational businesses to keep working. Please, support HB 2334.

Thank you.