



April 5, 2021

RE: Support for HB 2785

To Whom it May Concern:

Tillamook Coast Visitors Association, representing Tillamook County, has supported small farms, fisheries and food producers since our organization was started in 2014. We know first hand how hard small food producers work and the amount of time it takes to get products to market. While Tillamook County has a long and celebrated history of farming, it lacks systems to support small farms and ranches. That is why we are supporting HB 2785: State Meat Inspection Program Facilities Grant.

This program will help support the efforts now underway on Oregon's north coast – a resilient, regional system that helps grow markets and revenue of local food producers and increase direct to consumer sales. It will also reduce the amount of time, effort and expense now required for our livestock producers to have meat processing done. Those costs have to be passed on to consumers, and that can often limit the number of consumers that can enjoy locally sourced meats.

HB 2785 will help food producers and consumers, saving money for both. The grant program will bring many benefits to rural ranchers, and be a much-added economic stimulus to local livelihoods.

Thank you for your consideration of this much needed program.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nan Devlin".

Nan Devlin
Executive Director
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