



Marvin's Gardens and Cattle Company LLC  
5642 West Evans Creek Road  
Rogue River, OR. 97537

February 31, 2021

Chair Witt and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marvin Parker, I am the Owner and Manager of a Family farm in Rogue River, Jackson County. I am writing to you in support of HB2785.

As a small producer of Livestock, fruits and vegetable that we market to school districts through the Farm to School Program I have come to appreciate the difficulty and added expense of processing meat products in Oregon. Due to the lack of USDA certified processing facilities in rural areas of Oregon I am forced to transport my animals over two hours from my farm for processing at a USDA inspected plant. I must pay increased shipping fees for the processed meat to the company that produces the USDA inspected products I sell. This added expense is passed on to the products price and as a result limits that amount that a School can purchase for children's meals. The lack of facilities and the people to staff them has reduced the number of animals that can be processed daily. This has created a bottle neck that prevents me, and others, from delivering the quantity of animals necessary to fill the orders by our customers. In Oregon there are thousands of small farms and individuals who raise poultry for eggs and meat. The only outlet at this time in Oregon for farm fresh poultry is through farm slaughter and direct sales. This prevents Restaurants and Institutions from using locally produced poultry like chickens and ducks that are not raised in confinement or with antibiotics. To my knowledge there is no USDA certified poultry processing facility in the State of Oregon that is open to the Public.

Passage of this bill will make it possible for the small producer to come together and form partnerships that could result in the creation of Farmer / Rancher cooperatives that could process and market locally raised livestock and poultry at prices that are competitive and controlled by them. It will provide food security for Communities that can reach out to local farms and ranches to increase production during times of crisis. It will create jobs for Americans who are now out of work and dependent on taxpayer dollars. It will provide food for people who are out of work and desperately trying to feed their families through donations at food banks. Children who now depend on school meals will be able to have poultry and meat products that are clean and healthy, raised locally and not in a factory farm in another State or Nation. Through the creation of new Facilities, the State and local communities will see new tax dollars in sales, property and personal income taxes. The money spent on local products will remain in the Community and continue to support agriculture that is sustainable and competitive. It is a winning position for everyone.

Sincerely,

Marvin Parker, Owner  
Marvin's Gardens and Cattle Company LLC  
Rogue River, Jackson County, Oregon.