

Dear Co-chairs Sen. Dembrow and Rep. Pham, and members of the committee:

My name is Twila Jacobsen and I am writing today to express my support for HB 5002 and the proposed Oregon Department of Agriculture Budget. As a partner in a small ranch outside of Yoncalla it is really important to me that the state directly supports small and midsize farmers/ranchers, the ecosystems they depend on and the rural communities where they live.

My daughter, her partner and two young daughters have a small herd of goats and sheep, and need the services of butchering and processing meat. We are especially interested in the following packages:

- Package 220: State Meat Inspection Program
 - This would fund the first 4 inspectors for the state meat inspection program.
 - 4 inspectors is a great start, but we should build on this in the future.
 - This is especially important because State Inspected facilities are equal to USDA for sales within the state and would open more opportunities for independent livestock producers.
- Package 250: Meat Infrastructure Grant Fund
 - In addition to the inspection program, we also need money for new/expanded facilities.
 - Small independent producers are regularly reporting 12-18 month wait times, we need more capacity.
 - This program administration needs to be funded in conjunction with the \$10M requested in HB 2907 for the grant funds.

We are also supportive of the Soil Health Program, and the specialist to concentrate on bringing more federal funds for soil health to Oregon. This should be funded in conjunction with the Healthy Soils Initiative in HB2998. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Twila Jacobsen

ArrowT Livestock, LLC

Yoncalla