

Submitter: Chris Christensen

On Behalf Of: Malheur County Cattlemen

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: SB479

Re: SB 479

April 20, 2023

I am president of the Malheur Cattlemen's Association and I am expressing my support for SB 479 in regard to allowing donations of meat to non-profit or other organizations.

Malheur County has the most cattle of any county in the State of Oregon and Malheur Cattlemen have been actively involved in a program called "Rancher's Feeding Kids", where animals are donated to our organization to be processed into hamburger for the schools in the county. This is done without any charge to the school districts. The current requirements for processing of these donations to the schools has become very restrictive and cumbersome. The closest USDA plant is in Nampa, Idaho and the ability to get processing dates with these plants has become extremely difficult.

To allow these donations to be processed without requiring the USDA would allow our organization to serve our schools on a regular basis. In the last 3 years we have had offers of donations of beef, but we were unable to get processing dates with an Idaho USDA processing plant.

Malheur County strongly supports any bill that would allow meat to be donated to our schools. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely Yours

Chris Christensen
MCCA President