

Submitter: Diana Wirth  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1019

My name is Diana Wirth. I am submitting written testimony on behalf of the Klamath Cattlemen's Association, myself, my family and in support of SB 1019 with the -1 amendment.

The sunset clause in SB 1019 is a critical component of the bill. Oregon ranch families and those in other sectors of our industry, must have some accountability mechanism in place to end the program if, the Department of Agriculture is unable to bring the Brand Department into fiscal compliance.

What we appreciate most about SB 1019 is the conversation it has generated across our state, concerning the relevancy of the brand program to each sector of our industry. SB 1019 has created a moment for us to address needed changes in our industry, analyze opportunities for correction and modernization-resetting the brand program as needed and if possible. The ability to send the program back to the counties as a default should the brand department fail, is valued.

There are many issues with the brand department that need addressed but the most egregious is the lack of fiscal accountability. Our industry trusted the ODA with a simple fee based service. Four years ago the brand program had a \$1 million dollar plus surplus. Our industry granted a fee increase to bolster the program at that time. Now, the program is in debt over \$400,000, and could run a deficit of \$1 million dollars by the end of the fiscal year. This is unconscionable to ranch families who depended on ODA directors and the department, to operate responsibly.

SB 1019 provides us the opportunity for change and accountability. We humbly ask your support for this bill.

Sincerely,  
Diana Wirth  
Meadow Lake Ranch  
Klamath Cattlemen's Association