

Submitter: John E Zielinski
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1539

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

Support for SB 1539

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 1539, which would allow individuals who are properly trained and certified by the State of Oregon to verify if cattle are pregnant. The Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is supportive of this commonsense bill that protects animal health, increases needed access to animal health services in underserved areas, is aligned with state economic goals, and positions the livestock industry for herd expansion.

I am not a rancher, but I have many friends who are. Through conversations with my friends I have heard stories about how challenging it can be to get a large animal vet at a reasonable price to come to your farm, particularly those who are in remote areas or an area where there are not many cattle. The number of large animal vets is low to non-existent in some areas of Oregon, particularly very remote areas and those close to the larger urban areas where vets focus on far more lucrative small animal veterinary care. A trained and certified non-vet should have the ability to preg-check cows. It is a logical and practical solution, and in many cases where there are no large animal vets, the trained and certified non vet may have far more experience than the local vet. Farmers and ranchers face so many regulatory burdens that eat into profitability and take an inordinate amount of time. Please don't add another layer of expense to the ranchers.

Regards,
John Zielinski