

Submitter: Jenny Freeborn
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1539

Good evening Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire,

This piece of legislation provides a sorely needed solution for livestock producers across the state of Oregon. As is often discussed, there is a severe shortage of large animal veterinarians nationwide, most especially in the rural areas, where the large livestock animals typically reside. Checking cattle to verify pregnancy is a necessary and vital part of the cattle ranching industry, and, being almost exclusively in rural areas, and often heavily seasonal where many producers need the preg checking skills of a professional all at once, it is not currently possible to meet the demands of the industry effectively and efficiently.

Allowing specialists trained in this one, relatively simple and non-invasive, area to practice this profession, would provide producers with a solution, as well as alleviating the strain on already overworked and underpaid large animal veterinarians, freeing up their time and energies to places where they are sorely or emergently needed with their more robust skillset.

This legislation provides for a verification and licensing process, as well, to protect producers and confirm that individuals performing preg checking have training in the area and the necessary skills and experience to do the task safely.

This is a common sense piece of legislation, as well as a compromise from prior legislation, and I truly hope to see this pass and give livestock producers in Oregon some relief.

Thank you for your time and consideration.