

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire:

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, Committee Members:

My name is Cheryl Martin. I am a rancher in Baker/Union Counties and chair of the Legislative Committee for Oregon Cattlemen's Association. I am writing to you in support of SB 1539.

As a cattle rancher, I know the importance of pregnancy testing as an important tool financially as well as for the health of the herd. The checking allows us to know and be prepared for the upcoming calving season as well to identify any cows that are not carrying a calf. It is financially beneficial to market the "open" cows rather putting expenses into a cow that will not be carrying and producing a viable calf. However, there is a shortage of large animal veterinarians in many of our ranching communities which can make it difficult to schedule a pregnancy checking appointment. SB 1539 will open a pathway for many ranchers to optimize the timing of herd maintenance by hiring a knowledgeable, experienced and qualified option for preg checking. I personally will continue to use our local veterinarian but if there is an unfortunate occasion that may occur that I can't this will allow another pathway.

As ranchers, we care for and seek the best stewardship for our cattle herds. We take pride in knowing the most humane treatments, the latest technologies and the best avenues to take in keeping a healthy herd for the present and the future. SB 1539 is a good, safe and smart bill that has utilized sound advice and research for the betterment of our industry. I urge you to support SB 1539.

Thank you for your time and attention to moving SB 1539 forward and ultimate passage.

Sincerely,  
Cheryl Martin  
VP Ranch  
North Powder, OR