

February 5th 2026

SB 1539

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash and Committee

It is always an honor and a privilege to provide testimony on important issues affecting Oregonians. I would like to express my full support for Senate Bill 1539 with the dash one amendment which allows an individual to verify whether cattle are pregnant without holding a valid license issued by the Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board under certain circumstances. The amendment will change rule making from Oregon Department of Agriculture to the OVMEB.

It is important to take into consideration the lack of new veterinarians entering the large animal side of veterinary medicine. This has been a practice within the state of Oregon for many years by reliable people but without paying for the service to their neighbors. This will not take away current business to Veterinarians but rather allow compensation to service providers to help supplement their livestock operation. This will also allow more flexibility for cattle producers and allow them to better schedule thus task that will help them to make quicker and better decisions on the management of the operation. In the vast portions of Rural Eastern Oregon, it takes time to go from one ranch to another to efficiently process large number of cattle in a timely manner. This argument is hypocritical to the recent decision by USDA and FDA at the federal level to remove over the counter antibiotics for livestock use out of livestock supply stores taking away business from rural local small businesses and only allow veterinarians sole provider of said medications that are used daily on the ranch.

Proper herd management is intensive and important to those in livestock production. With current techs not under the supervision of the Oregon State Veterinary Medicine Board to offer artificial insemination and embryo transfer to producers which is a higher technical procedure versus palpation, ultrasound or blood sample collecting.

In conclusion, I fully support Senate Bill 1539 that provides essential support to livestock producers facing the challenges of the demand for large animal veterinarians and the service of preg checking. This ensures these people receive fair compensation for this simple service that will not affect current veterinary client relationships as they are required to have for the accessibility for prescription drugs.

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