

February 5, 2026

**Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
Oregon Legislative Assembly**

RE: Support for SB 1539

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB 1539.

SB 1539 provides a practical, immediate solution to a real problem faced by many ranchers throughout Oregon. Across the country, graduation rates of large animal veterinarians are decreasing, and this is felt especially hard in the rural, remote communities of eastern Oregon.

My husband and I raise cattle in remote parts of Harney and Grant counties in eastern Oregon. These remote counties, combined, encompass approximately 14,750 square miles. There are approximately 113,542 thousand head of cattle within this region and, at the time of this writing, there are only three full-time large animal veterinarians within our two-county area.

Pregnancy checking cattle is a critical component of animal health management, environment stewardship and maintaining an economically viable business. In recent years, it has been increasingly difficult to schedule veterinarians to complete timely pregnancy checks on our cattle herd.

SB 1539 would relieve some of the stresses of timely herd health management by allowing trained individuals to complete cattle pregnancy checking. The legislation clearly states that training and certification will be required. The industry already has a framework in which certified large animal veterinarians provide training for interested individuals, and SB 1359 will strengthen this process and address an important need in Oregon's agriculture sector.

I want to thank Sen. Nash for sponsoring this piece of legislation and working so diligently to address the needs of agriculture and rural Oregon. Thank you for your consideration and I encourage the committee's full support to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,



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