

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Health
For SB 691

Compiled on: Monday, May 8, 2023 9:22 AM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: May 8, 2023 8:00 AM

Lindsay Gonzales
self - nonprofit
Brookside Village, TX

Access to local foods has always been important to me and now that I am raising a family of my own, it's even more of priority. I'm committed to buying pastured meat but want to take that extra step and be able to buy from a neighbor and a friend instead of having it shipped to me from out of state, but we can't afford or store giant meat shares like are available now. With this change, we could buy meat from our local ranchers in smaller and more realistic quantities - then I can switch from buying in groceries stores or mail-in deliveries to the ranchers who live near me. That's the goal and I wonder how many other families like mine could make the switch to local meat with this easy change? We say we have Texas Pride so let's make it easier to actually support our state's own ranchers!

Ken Mix, Dr.
self-farmer and Associate Professor of Soil and Crop Science Texas State Univ. and the Small Producer Initiative
Kingsbury, TX

As I understand this bill, this will provide the ability for small producers to provide a viable income to themselves and a necessary product to local communities, many lacking big box stores. Further, the generation of income in small communities or large, that supports agriculture is the very foundation of our economy and keeps money flowing within the state and local communities.

Linda Curtis
League of Independent Voters of Texas
Bastrop, TX

We are ardent supporters of local foods and small farms. As such we support this legislation and applaud your willingness to file and fight for the bill. Thank you, Senator Kolkhorst!

Clayton Tucker
Self
Lampasas, TX

This bill will help my family ranch, and thousands more like us, sell our products directly to Texans in search of high quality local foods. Texans should have the freedom to buy local and family ranches, with the passage of this bill, can be their conduit to buy local. Bills similar to this one have passed in other states and, to my knowledge, there hasn't been any issues related to health and safety. If anything, since local livestock generally don't come into contact with other outside livestock as they would in mega meat processing plants, the chance for disease outbreak may very well be less for local producers. All in all, I ask for the committee to remember that buying local is buying Texan, and that's just good for everyone who calls our state home. Thank you.

Gordon Walton
self
Austin, TX

I purchase local meat in bulk from farmers and the lack of processing facilities definitely drives up the cost and availability of this product. I plan to raise my own cattle in the future and would like more local options for butchering to become available.

Thank you!

Chouaib Aberkane
Self
Tomball, TX

Greetings, I believe as Texans, Americans we have the right for self determination and we also should have the right to self feed. Buying local not only help small businesses but it will also giving freedom to eat fresh food without the control of the big corporations

Ellen Hinds, DVM
self (rancher)
Elgin, TX

I support this bill. As a very small rancher who currently sells live animals on the hoof for independent purchasers to have processed I believe this bill would be helpful in keeping local custom meat available to more families. Thank you!

Serena Warnky
BattleFarm
Paris, TX

This will make it easier and safer for small producers like me to provide meat to customers.

Rebecca Burrow
Self - stay at home mother and wife
Temple, TX

Please support and pass SB 691. I am a wife and mother to three small children. We do not make a lot of money and we often have to make large compromises on food quality simply because we cannot afford better. We would like to at least be able to support our local farmers more by buying meat from them, what meat we do eat, but we cannot afford to buy even a quarter of a cow at a time. Local meat is often more expensive simply because the farmer has to use one of very few slaughter facilities and their fees are quite high due to the regulatory cost of running the facility at all. Many smaller farmers, the ones who do not have very many animals but produce high quality products, are heavily burdened by these slaughter costs. But if small farmers were able to use a custom processor like thousands of hunters already use, this will not only make local meat cheaper and more affordable for lower income families like us, but also help support those custom processors outside of hunting season. Please support and pass this bill that will help our local farmers and economies, improve food security, and encourage the creation of more custom processors.

Kayla Walker
Self, bookkeeper
Abilene, TX

Consumers being able to access local meat is very important for our farmers and ranchers and our communities.

Jamie Purcell
self
Victoria, TX

Please join the Senate and pass this bill. Texans should have the right to "Buy Local", whether it is vegetables, eggs, milk, or meat.

Alexis Hancock
Brookside Village Farmers Market
Pearland, TX

Consumers want access to locally raised meat at more affordable prices. Local ranchers have to price meat much higher due to cost burdens on processing. They want to be able to sell their products at prices their local communities can afford. This bill will help reduce the burden on local meat producers and their consumers.

Kellyn Davis
Self, homemaker
Abilene, TX

Please make local meat more easily available to local purchasers!

Anai Miller
Self
Hawley, TX

As a small business owner, it is imperative that we have access to local meat. We strongly support small businesses, especially our local farmers. Affordability is important, but so is our health. We do not need nor want our meat injected with so called vaccines that are for our benefit. Farmers feed America.

Erin Gomez
Solana Farms
Buda, TX

I would like more access to meat raised and processed locally. Please support this bill

Laura Cook
Self
Smithville, TX

We need to be able to purchase locally grown meats where we know what we are truly getting.

Meredith Clark
Self
Abilene, TX

Access to local meat is so important for our local community. It supports many families and gives amazing nutritional benefits. It's also provides income to local farmers that work very hard. I love supporting local farmers and having access to meat without having to order online or drive to the grocery store.

Candy Marshall, Ms

Self

Plantersville, TX

I'm not a vegetarian. I eat red meat, but only pasture raised. I'm 75yo and on no prescription drugs, and i feel its due to eating quality foods. But, i can no longer afford the good meat at HEB. The opening of more custom slaughter facilities would be such a blessing for people in my position. The custom facilities we have now are GREAT, but we only have access (without months of waiting) if it's NOT deer season.

Please help the elderly citizens of Texas to get great quality meats at affordable prices.

Thank You

Jackie Hunt

Self

Georgetown, TX

Yes, Yes, Yes, I have started to buy local TEXAS meat and support this bill. This bill will help keep our local food supply stronger and keep Texas stronger.

Adrianna Rogers

Self

GLENN HEIGHTS, TX

During the pandemic, there were a lot of uncertainties about our supply of food. I will never forget walking into HEB and the produce section being almost completely wiped out. It was alarming! However, I wasn't worried. Personally, about 75% of my food does not come from the average grocery store. I purchase all of my beef and pork from a farmer, Hillbilly Nutrition, I found on Instagram a few years ago. I simply go online, order, and pick-up or pay for delivery. Veggies and fruit? I visit my local farmers market for that!

I'd already been doing this when the pandemic hit, so I wasn't really affected by the pandemic shortages (well, except for toilet paper).

Unfortunately, there just aren't enough farmers or ranchers available for us to purchase from since finding a processing facility is difficult. As an individual who raises my own poultry and has them processed at a USDA facility, I can tell you it's tough getting on their schedule. I have one slaughterhouse option in my region. Please, we need more!

Patricia Seeley

Melody Acres Ranch and Melody' Bed and Catch you Breakfast (airbnb and VRBO) since 1994

Crockett, TX

Re : House Public Health Committee to support SB 691.I am a small farmer who produces 4 steers, some pigs and lambs a year to share and sell to customers. It is extremely expensive to do this with a USDA facility. I can guarantee our beef, lamb and pork is better and healthier for the public than anything that comes out of a feedlot or a store! I called re an appointment and cannot get in until MARCH 2024. My steers are ready now and so are my customers. PLEASE PASS THIS BILL. It will allow me to provide more excellent beef lamb and pork to the people who want it and allow me to expand a little to provide this. Patricia Seeley melodyacresranch.com

SANDRA Whisler
self
Copperas Cove, TX

Custom meat processors already process meat for hunters and homesteaders. They meet strict food safety standards and are more accessible and affordable for farmers. Animals also do not have to be transported long distance before being killed. Long distance travel stresses animals, especially in the high heat of Texas. Currently, custom meat processors are only available to consumers willing to buy a quarter of a whole animal at a time. Not all consumers want to buy this much meat; they may not have storage for it. Additionally, all families do not want this much meat at one time.

This bill would allow small farmers to have better access to local meat processing. Consumers will be able to buy small amounts of meat through farmers who use such facilities.

This change will benefit small farmers, people who want to know the source of the meat that they eat and how it was raised, and will provide backup for all farmers when major meat processors have contamination issues, strikes, or other plant closures. This bill will benefit many Texans and will hurt no one.

Olivia Kramer
Wild Herd Cattle + Kitchen
Pontotoc, TX

For the past 4 years our family has raised livestock and sold meat direct to consumers in our community. We have had great demand for our products, but one of the biggest hurdles we have faced is finding a USDA or State Inspected slaughterhouse that is available and nearby to our business. We have several Custom Slaughterhouses within an hour of our farm, but only 1 that I am aware of is currently state inspected. On top of that, the state inspected products do not include cured products like bacon or hams due to additional health requirements and procedures they must adhere to. The closest USDA inspected slaughter house that also has inspected cured products would be ~7 hour round trip drive for us and a ~3.5 hour trip for livestock. Our family and our customers alike value our small farm model particularly because of its ability to have high animal welfare standards. The closer an animal can be slaughtered to home, the better. Allowing more access to sell smaller meat shares to consumers would allow us to legally use these closer Custom facilities to get our customers their desired locally grown meat. This would help us and our livestock immensely. Having to drive nearly 7 hours to the USDA processor is burdensome and costly - it adds quite a bit of cost onto the customer's final bill through labor time and fuel alone. Raising meat in a small family farm setting is already expensive and meat prices are much higher than what consumers are used to seeing at big box stores. Allowing smaller shares to be sold through a custom butcher makes our meat more accessible to families who may not be able to afford a large share of meat all at once or who do not have a freezer space large enough for that quantity. Any help us small farmers can get to make our products more available is a huge boost to our business, the local economy, and local food access.

Pier-Anne Lachance
Yellow Bird Creek Restoration Farm
Missouri city, TX

I am in full support for custom processors to be allowed to provide services for small farms to process animal for sale to direct to consumers. The processors are regulated by the State. These facilities already process meat for hunters and homesteaders, meeting strict food safety standards and provide more services than larger facilities for small farmers. But right now, they are only available to consumers willing to buy a quarter, half or a whole animal at a time, which can be prohibitive due to upfront cost and availability. Allowing those small farmers to sell different cuts or percent of the cow or other ruminant would allow for a larger number of consumers to have access to locally grown meat of better quality. It would also make custom slaughter a more consistent business which would provide incentive for that industry to grow in Texas. Allowing percentage of a ruminant to be sold would also increase the incentive for small farms, like mine, to produce meat for local consumers in a custom manner. Access to local slaughter would be reducing transport cost, use of fuel, and overall cost of the meat. Approving bill SB691 would help the local economy of Texas and provide choices. Many resources are showing that grass feed animals are better for health and access to those meats are limited due to their cost. Also allowing people to be closer to their food as shown to be a good way to incentivize consumer to eat better and promote health. We want to make healthy food available to all Texans and not only those in large centers. Thanks you for considering my comment and voting to change the current laws that limit access to healthy food to Texas.

Michael Autenreith

Self

Houston, TX

Please make this happen for the great people of Texas!

Barbara Sanders

Self psychologist

Abilene, TX

Please pass this to allow local meat to be purchased that is free if harmful vaccines

Deborah Murphy

Self and Slow Food DFW

Dallas, TX

Hello - we can help the planet and its people by helping the small farmers and ranchers in America. Let's not make it more difficult for them. As a consumer, I buy from small farmers and ranchers, very specifically to "vote" with my consumer dollar. The BIG AG patented seed makers are not a consumers friend and we know now, it's the way our animals (and people) are fed, that make a big difference. Feed lots, have GOT to go. Corporate patented seed makers (and the accompanying pesticide) are not good for the country though I know they are in the pocket of many of our politicians. I hope whomever is reading this, is excluded from that group. There are facilities already processing meat for hunters and homesteaders, meeting strict food safety standards while still being more accessible and affordable for farmers. Please vote YES for SB 691 allowing small farmers and consumers to use these custom processors more easily.

Cynthia Cook
CD&J Mini Ranch - self
San Benito, TX

Dear House Public Health Committee,

Hi, my name is Cynthia Cook, my husband, Dave and I live outside San Benito, Texas, on 35 acres. I am writing you today to ask you, The Texas House, to support us so that we can sell any size "share" in a live animal to consumers while using a local custom slaughterhouse. This will make local meat more affordable and available for more people.

As small farmers we should not have to meet standards that were created and designed for huge meat-packers that process thousands of animals a day. It makes it difficult and very expensive for small operations like us to serve our communities. With the passing of this bill we would be able to sell our cuts of meat to our local neighbors and to those local people who don't want to depend on grocery stores and large meat conglomerates to provide them their meat products. This will allow us to sell our meats without having to drive 950 miles to our closest USDA and State Certified meat processing plant. That's 237 miles one way so 2 trips there and back every 2 months. We have to add the cost of travel time, fuel, State Certification for resale onto the cost of our beef and pork which is an extra cost burden on our already low income residence of the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. It is also an extra hazard for my husband and son who spend over 9 hours on the road going back and forth to Poth, Texas every other month.

I am from San Benito, my husband was raised in Wolfforth, outside Lubbock, Texas. Our twin boys were born at Dolly Vincent Memorial Hospital; my Mom & Pop owned & ran Wilson's Skate Center on Stenger Street in San Benito for 26 years. My husband & I owned and operated it on weekends while working full time jobs for 7 years, so we are very invested in our small community.

My husband Dave and I are both retired from working for our government and this great country. We loved our careers, and now have a small farm where we decided to raise our own meats & vegetables for healthier eating. We raise grass fed beef, free range chickens, pastured pigs, and farm fresh eggs along with Certified Naturally Grown vegetables. Not only did we create our small business for our own healthy eating but for our neighbors who want the same. We also created our business to help subsidize our retirement income.

Being able to sell our meat cuts processed at our local packing plant would not only help our sales by us being able to reduce our prices significantly, it would also allow our potential customers to have easier access to healthier meats. Please help us and those like us, by supporting this bills and other farm bills that continue to try and help small farmers in Texas.

Thank you for your time.

Cynthia & David Cook
CD&J Mini Ranch
29575 Adams Rd.
San Benito, Texas 78586
956 456-9600
cdjminiranch.com

Charley French
Self, small farmer
Lipan, TX

As an owner of a small farm, and former business owner, it would make a world of difference to have the ability to utilize custom meat facilities and still legally be able to sell cuts of meat. With the increase in demand of USDA facilities, it has made it nearly impossible scheduling butchery appointments at these facilities which has prevented our ability to sell specific cuts of meat to our customers.

This was a primary factor in my family's ability to continue our small farm business. Not all customers want to purchase half or whole hog shares which is what we are limited to when utilizing a custom processing facility.

Sheena Hitt
Self
Pittsburg, TX

We support more freedom for ranchers, farmers, and homesteaders to be able to process livestock on farm and also be able to sell on farm, regardless of USDA inspectors.

R Bradley
Self
Yoakum, TX

Let's pass this so small farmers and consumers can work more directly and make and save everyone money and their health!

Wanda Lunz
Self
San Marcos, TX

I believe in supporting local farmers and ranchers who raise crops and livestock for sale to individuals in the community. It is a healthier choice for myself and my family as well as supporting local businesses. Please support SB 691 by Kolkhorst, it is good for Texas. Thank you

Lisa Stai
Big Country Conservatives
Abilene, TX

This will make local meat more affordable and available for many people! With the possibility of animals being injected with mRNA vaccines, it's important now more than ever that we protect our access to clean foods! Please stop polluting our food.

Barbara A Brown
individual
Liberty, TX

I want local meat, raised humanely...respecting the animal and the land. I don't want the government usurping my choices.

Sarah Aberg
self - retired social worker practicing musician
Dallas, TX

I grew up on a ranch eating meat we raised and sent to the local meat processor. Needless to say it was wonderful and eating meat raised by small outfits pleases me no end! I should think all Texans would benefit by have better access to locally produced meat both for the taste and the pleasure of it as well as the benefits of small production. Please help make this bill become law.

Robert Smith
Self
Abilene, TX

Please consider voting in favor of allowing small farmers and ranchers the ability to sell any size share to consumers and then use a custom slaughterhouse for processing. This will allow local meat available to customers to be more available and affordable.

Paula Asinof
Self - Consultant
Dallas, TX

I am a consumer of local agricultural products, especially meat. Anything that can be done to make the products more accessible, especially through laws that enable farmers to grow and distribute their offerings in ways that make it easier, more efficient, and more effective to be part of the supply chain should be supported. I hope you will fully support this bill.

Amye Hartfield
Self; Homesteader
Austin, TX

I am in favor of this bill.

Douglas Havemann
Mesquite Field Farm
Nixon, TX

With the failure of our National supply chain and livestock processing plants due to COVID 19, the State of Texas and its consumers should have never been impacted. Our small ranchers could have filled our consumers freezers if the State would allow us to use custom processors. However, due to current law we, the small Texas cattle ranchers get to suffer as well as our consumers. Custom processors are regulated by the State. These facilities already process meat for hunters and homesteaders, meeting strict food safety standards while still being more accessible and affordable for farmers. The Senate passed this Bill because it is smart, helps our small ranchers, and reduces the pressure on our Texas constituents currently experiencing shortages and inflated prices. There is plenty of room in the livestock market for small Texas cattle ranchers. Why not help them be successful and at the same time allow our constituents to fill their freezers with responsibly raised livestock products.

Rebecca Burkheart
Cedar Break Farms
Cleburne, TX

Our economy is in a critical situation. I have land, animal and resource, but am not able to adequately support my local community with our healthy pasture raised heritage pork due to the lack of processing facilities. If I were able to sell smaller shares in my local community, it would provide a healthy alternative to them to be able to support me in return.

Neil Feiereisel
Self, retired
Cedar Park, TX

It's important to me to be able to buy meat for local ranchers that raise their livestock on grass pastures and ensure the health of their animals. I want to support local ranchers in Texas rather than mega meatpacking companies who buy the cheapest (and often unhealthiest) meat possible. Now that our kids are grown up, my wife and I don't need the same quantities of meat we used to eat, so we need smaller shares, compared to the 1/4 or 1/2 of a steer we used to buy. Please allow more flexibility for Texans like me to buy healthy meat from my fellow Texans.

Connie Hale, Mrs.
Self, farmer
Campbell, TX

I am a small farmer in this great state of Texas, and proud of the fact that Texans know how important it is for us to take care of its own people, and providing more opportunities to create a resilient and accessible food supply is very important to that purpose. I personally have animals that have been waiting over a year to schedule an opportunity to have them processed and to feed both ourselves and our neighbors. We very much need more slaughter options and locations so that we may better serve ourselves and those in our local communities. Please support SB 691 to help make this possible! Thank you!

B4qney BEVERLY

self

Austin, TX

Diversifying and localizing our food sources is planet-friendly in every way possible. Transporting meat to slaughterhouses, to processors, and then on to stores, wastes energy and adds more CO2 to our atmosphere. The supply chain is shorter. Localizing food production is a job producer for local economies. It also is smart for our national security. It's smart for protection against potential diseases spread in mass meat processing facilities. Decentralizing food production is a win on so many levels. I ask you to vote yes to SB 691. Thank you.

Shamonn Mason-Galindo

Self

Charlotte, TX

Please consider how important it is for small farmers and their likelihood to be able to sell smaller shares without the need for large/commercial processing of meat and meat food products.

Brian Keegan, Mr.

Self retired

Cedar Creek, TX

Please provide support for local meat. Support SB 691

Kathy Cott, Ms

Self

Mesquite, TX

SB 691 would allow small farmers and consumers to use these custom processors more easily. There are too few small inspected processors. Many small farmers have to wait months to get their animals processed, or drive many hours (wasting time, fuel, money and stressing the animals) to get to one. Provide more inspectors!

Becky Weise

Weise Farms

Giddings, TX

We are a small farm and we want SB 691 to pass! There are too few small inspected processors. Many small farmers have to wait months to get their animals processed, or drive many hours (wasting time, fuel, money and stressing the animals) to get to one. Custom processors are regulated by the State. These facilities already process meat for hunters and homesteaders, meeting strict food safety standards while still being more accessible and affordable for farmers. But right now, they are only available to consumers willing to buy a quarter of a whole animal at a time. SB 691 would allow small farmers and consumers to use these custom processors more easily. We want this to pass!

Samuel Brownwood

Self

Abilene, TX

Access to local meat is important! This bill is fantastic and helps us all have access to local meat.

Kathy Denison, Mrs.

Self. Retired

Bastrop, TX

I support this bill to allow more access to local meat via custom processor facilities.

Randi Elston
Self, homemaker
Morgan Mill, TX

Please consider this bill and how this would positively impact rural farmers, rancher and residents in their ability to locally source their food, boosting the local, rural economy and allowing the people to have freedom in their choices of what to consume and from where. This is the epitome of what it means to be a free, Texan.

Diana Garcia Padilla
Padilla Farm LLC dba Yahweh's All Natural Farm and Garden and HOPE for Small Farm Sustainability (a 501c3 farmer support org)
Harlingen, TX

We are small organic farmers selling direct to consumers in the Rio Grande Valley (South Texas), we believe our farm has thrived because we sell meat. But we have to many challenges to grow, the processes are backlogged, and our customers cannot afford to purchase quarters or half's. The Custom processors can process but we cannot sell, so it limits our ability to increase our markets. Please consider this Bill so more small farmers like us can stay farming.

Brett Bonin, Major
Self
Garland, TX

Food availability is a critical existential requirement. We should be able to share ownership of livestock and their products. Without penalty. For societal resilience, politicians should allocate tax dollars for local programs to subsidize local production in the spirit of WW2 victory gardens. Other countries also provide families with livestock in order to reduce risks associated with all food coming from a few large mega grocery stores like Walmart. Eggs, milk, meat, etc. should be allowed to be harvested from shared ownership livestock. It should be legal to transport and deliver the products to owners as they wish

Gola Smith
None
Abilene, TX

I support this bill and would like to see it passed.

Anthony Glenn Simpson
Bay Bees
Brownsville, TX

We have a small local beef producer that raises their cattle on high quality the natural way. Because they are a small farmer they give more individual attention to their cattle than any stockyard could ever do. There facilities are some of the cleanest I have ever seen and I am much more comfortable to get my beef from them. Please vote this bill through and get it to the Governors desk for signature.

Cindy Ginn
Self
CYPRESS, TX

The shut down during covid made us all realize we need all avenues to purchase meat and other food. We are the BEEF state, it should be super easy to purchase beef etc from our local ranchers. Please pass this bill.

Jenna Detro
Self
Humble, TX

The farms we purchased meat from have to schedule their harvesting dates at the processor a year or 18 months in advance. It's a fragile schedule and can easily result in food insecurity for the buyer should a processor close or cancel appointments. Additionally the farmer still feeds an animal that should have already paid for the farmer's expenses in raising it, diminishing the farmer's profit.

More places to process their beef would also allow the farmers the ability to make smaller portions of products more available to us, the suburban buyers. Many consumers don't have room on their property to buy chest freezers to store a half/side of beef. If we could purchase smaller cuts (by owning a smaller percentage of the animal before it's harvested) we could store the meat at home. This would improve our access to nutrient dense food.

Hannah Gongola, Farmer
H2Grow Farms
Paige, TX

Using custom slaughter as a means to process livestock raised on small farms is essential to the health and sustainability of small farms. Not only does it allow small farms to generate revenue, but it allows animals to be processed in a more humane and safer way.

Heidi West
Self / Homemaker
Abilene, TX

As a single income family and hobby rancher, access to high quality local beef is important to us because we want to know where our food comes from and the quality of life and respect given to the animals that we consume. We would like to safely provide the meat we raise not only for our family but friends. Raising cattle is expensive and selling shares would help us better afford putting food on our own table.

Margaret Walhovd
Self, mother/homesteader
Pflugerville, TX

It would be wise to approve this bill to provide better access to animal processing facilities for small farmers and homesteaders. The current limitations are inhibiting small businesses and consumers alike.

Marylinda Jones, Dr
self
Anna, TX

I have been fortunate for the last four years to be able to buy locally raised and processed meat. I know the struggles my friends go through to get a processing slot at a Federally inspected processor.

We take our deer to a state regulated Processor. Please vote to allow them to process domestic livestock for sale in piece parts.

Joy Rhodes
Self
Victoria, TX

I support this bill because we support our local farmers and buy meat from them often. Because of limited supply, we only get to order it twice a year and have to do it in bulk. This bill will help increase local meat options for people across Texas.

Stacy Kuta

self

Eules, TX

Texas wants more access to locally raised meat.

Tayton Boyd

The Chicken Tub Farm

BOERNE, TX

Requiring small farmers to use large portion shares and usda slaughterhouses is a barrier to entry level customers and undo hardship.

Matthew Underwood, Mr.

Self - IT support

Denton, TX

I would like the opportunity to purchase locally raised meat in my community.

Rhonda Lowry

R&R Farms

Wolfforth, TX

I am asking my representatives to support SB691 so that there is more access to locally raised-meat. At the moment we not only have to travel 2 hours to a USDA processor, but we are waiting months to get beef processed which is not conducive to our small farm business. A custom processor, which is still regulated for safety and cleanliness, but which we would be allowed to use would help alleviate time in travel and waiting period.

Rudy Nordmeyer

self-retired

Austin, TX

Please support this bill allowing local shares of livestock from farmers to be sold to individuals. Insuring we know exactly where our food comes from is more important now than ever and the ability to share in the local resources will improve community health and standards. Forming relationships with local farmers will improve the food supply and help with healthy participation in local agricultural support. Just like getting to know our neighbors, we need to get to know our local producers to insure the benefits we will both receive. Economic benefits will surely follow as well,if we are allowed the choice of our personal food supplies and our families, children, friends and neighbors will all stand to benefit as well. Please support SB 691 by Kolkhorst! Thank You!

Harold Skaggs

Self

Burnet, TX

Please give Texas residents more options for purchasing Texas raised animals, by small operation ranch and farms. We need less burdensome regulations and better access to food we can know more about the background and methods.

Thank y'all for your time.

Jonathan Lineweaver, Mr.

Self, Truck Driver

Clyde, TX

Citizens have the ability to way the risks versus benefits of consuming local meat processed by a custom slaughterhouse. This is a right and ability that ought to be granted to us. The fact that it is not already, shows the ridiculous level of regulation that hinders local ranchers, meat processors, and consumers. I, Jonathan Lineweaver am for SB 691 being passed.

Hailey Ketchersid

Self

Lubbock, TX

I vote that local farmers be able to sell their meat to anyone who wants to buy it. This is America. Land of the free. Small farming is becoming obsolete, but this is what made America great. Thomas Jefferson was a visionary who wanted America to be a nation of small family farms. Let's stay true to that dream here in Texas.

I try to buy as much meat locally as possible from farmers who aren't mass producing livestock. mass producing food is ruining our quality of food and our health. This is well known and there is plenty of evidence to support it. I recommend you watch a documentary called "Food, INC" If you haven't. even if you don't want to look into all the research, then let common sense rule the day: animals raised fast on an unnatural diet in order to mass produce meat does not lead to anything good.

I have heard the argument that this is what it takes in order to feed America. That's because we've lost over half of our small farmers since the 1980s. We really need large farming reforms to help re-establish small farms across our state.

Do NOT prohibit small farmers from being able to sell their meat in shares.

Mike Embry

Private farmer

Kemp, TX

Here's our example: we had a pig, Chigger. At 200 pounds she was the perfect weight to slaughter to fill the freezer. However, EVERY processor we contacted had at least a 6 month backup. We waited 6 mos. Chigger weighed 622# at slaughter. That's WAY to fat for quality meat. And for to expensive for feed. Six months is to long to wait. We need more access to meat processors.

Ashley Davis

Self

Brownsboro, TX

We have got to make senseless laws stop on small farms. This is why small farms go under and it is only left to the big corps. Please consider protecting small farms and making Texas different. This would allow us to not have to only go to usda inspected facilities but custom slaughter facilities for any cuts of meat available. Going to only USDA makes travel hard and expenses not worth it. Help the farmers! Support local!

Jim Wilson, Citizen

Self

Austin, TX

Hi, I think it is a great idea to allow more independent ranchers and farmers to provide food directly to customers. Decentralization equals better options for consumers. Best, Jim

Komra Salo

self

Evant, TX

Being able to support local ranchers, and buy my meat locally is a big deal to me. I think this makes Texas stronger.

Darla Avery

Republican

Abilene, TX

Support passing of bill SB 691 to help local farmers

Norman Moore
Lone Star Self Storage
Austin, TX

This really helps local producers who take such care in their animals and products!

Dee Henneke, Ms.
Retired
Leander, TX

The Texas Senate has already passed a bill (SB 691 by Kolkhorst) that would allow me as an individual consumer to buy more local meat. I pray that the House collaborates with the Senate in passing this legislation. I regularly buy local whenever possible as I want to know where my food is derived from. I can buy vegetables and other food products locally but local meat is not an option for me. My brother is a small-producer who raises his own natural meat and this is where I travel to purchase beef, pork, and chicken. I drive 3 hours one way to buy such nourishment. The conventional meat sold in most regular grocery stores is so tasteless and unappetizing and does not contain the necessary nutrients to keep me healthy like local foods do. The meat custom processing plants where small-scale ranchers and farmers can process their animals are few and far between. Such meat can only be sold by purchasing a quarter of an animal (excepting hunters and homesteaders). This is not a viable option for me. These small custom processing facilities have to meet the high standards that are geared toward Big Agribusiness and Big Food and are an astronomical burden towards the restricted farmers/ranchers. Because I am concerned about my future health, please allow more custom processing plants to proliferate in this great state. I beg you to pass SB 691. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ellen Snow
self
Seabrook, TX

Why make it more difficult to get meat to consumers. Many things which the government enacts are ridiculous and expensive. Healthy meat is becoming more scarce for the poor.

H.C. Clark
self
Houston, TX

SB 691 by Kolkhorst
We have a cow-calf farm in Limestone County and send about 80 calves a year to the sale barn. If we had a local processor, and if folks could buy beef easily, our (and our neighbor's) option to feed out a number of calves would be a great benefit. This bill would make that possible and I suport it.

William EDDINS
self county retirement member representative
AUSTIN, TX
Please support it.

Kathryn Polt
Self
Harlingen, TX

Please vote for SB 691 by Kolkhorst. We the people of Texas NEED affordable options for food availability. The healthiest options are from a local farmer. It also helps the economic growth of an industry that works hard and struggles in the battle of excess cost and excessive regulation.

Give us the option of purchasing meats directly from our local farmers. Give the farmers the ability to sell meats to consumers who want their products.

I cannot afford, I do not need, nor do i have storage options for half a cow. I want to be able to purchase a smaller amount of meat at an affordable price from my local farmer.

Stephen Wyman, Mr.
self/retired
Georgetown, TX

It keeps more money in the local economy, and potentially provides more convenient, local access to meat, and related, "meat food products," at places such as: local, farmer's/rancher's markets.

Rhonda Chennault
Countrified Farms LLC
Grandview, TX

USDA inspection needs to remain required when selling Meat to customers. If this inspection is no longer in place, it will lead to sub par products and unsafe Meat.

Vollie Davis
Self/Heavy Equipment Technician
Kilgore, TX

Having the opportunity to know where your meat comes from again(origin).

Judy Cho
None
Austin, TX

We want our meat local

Jessica Young
Self
Tuscola, TX
Agree

Kathleen Thompson
Homestead Texas Farm
Buckholts, TX

As the owner of a small family farm I strongly support all legislation that facilitates my ability to process and sell my meat locally. This is a real challenge currently for a number of both state and federal regulations. My farm and others like it are a great resource for our state and should be supported and recognized as such.

Tahne Arrington

Self

Adkins, TX

Please consider this bill. People deserve to know where their meat comes from. Farmers like me want to feed people good, clean food. But we are restrained by government over reach. Please, help everyone by voting for 691.

Zachary Platt

Behind the Oaks Farm

Schertz, TX

We are a small scale ranching operation in Central Texas, and we are in favor of this bill passing for small scale producers to provide better accessibility to get their animals processed. For us, taking animals to the processor is at least a half days worth of our time and the price is very expensive. For other small scale producers, they have to travel even further than us to have their processing needs met when a custom slaughterhouse is right down the road. This would open up the door for more small scale producers to come onto the market and provide food security for our neighbors and local Texas residents, putting power back into our state. During times of crisis, such as what we experienced in the past few years, the ability to provide this security for local Texas residents is priceless. It's time for Texas to look out for Texas.