

Ohio Cattlemen's Association Proponent Testimony on HB 10 Before the House Agriculture Committee April 2, 2025

Chairman Creech, Vice Chair Newman, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Agriculture Committee, on behalf of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association, OCA and its members, thank you for the opportunity to provide this proponent testimony on House Bill 10.

OCA is a membership organization that represents the business interests important to farm families that raise cattle. It serves as the voice of Ohio's cattle industry and works to enhance the business climate necessary for industry success. OCA is a respected source of information for Ohio's cattle and beef industry and its mission is to maintain the profitability and growth of the state's industry, while providing consumers with safe and wholesome beef.

OCA supports HB 10 and appreciates sponsors Representatives Klopfenstein and Daniels for their leadership on this legislation. The labeling requirements in this bill are important and will benefit both the state's consumers, as well as Ohio's food animal producers. Ohio's beef farm families take pride in producing high quality, safe and nutritious beef and these same attributes are present no matter how it is marketed whether direct-to-consumer, through big box stores or in the food service areas specifically addressed in this legislation.

Proper labeling and transparent communication are essential to building and maintaining consumer trust. Consumers have the right to know what they are purchasing and eating, and accurate labeling ensures they can make informed decisions about their food. Today's beef is available in several options including grass-fed, grain-fed and locally grown to name a few. There are also many other protein options available for purchase. This broad range of protein choices help satisfy consumer preferences and this legislation will help ensure consumers are informed.

HB 10 also addresses the emerging area of cell-cultured and lab-grown meat in K-12 schools. Most students do not have a large variety of options; many pack their lunch, eat the lunch provided by the school, or choose an alternative option available to them by the cafeteria staff. Parents trust that the food prepared for their children in schools is safe, nutritious, and aligned with their needs and their values.

This bill will help provide transparency for parents, ensuring they understand what their children are eating while in the care of others. It will also allow school districts to discuss and develop policies around the use of cell-cultured or lab-grown meats and create clarity about this potential alternative food source.

Thank you, Chairman Creech and members of the House Agriculture Committee, for the opportunity to share information and provide HB 10 proponent testimony on behalf of Ohio's beef farm families.