

Senator Sharon Shewmake  
213 John A. Cherberg Building  
PO Box 40442  
Olympia, WA 98504

January 19, 2023

Dear Senator Shewmake,

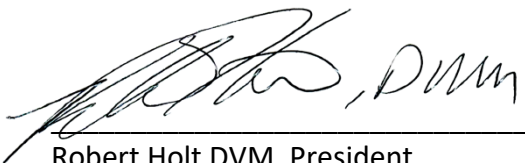
On behalf of the Whatcom County Cattlemen's Association, I wanted to reach out to let you know that our county supports SB 5150, which increases the Beef Checkoff.

As you may know, the current state assessment is \$1.00 with an additional .50 cents added for the Federal Beef Board Promotion program. The proposed increase would bring Washington's total beef checkoff amount (state and federal combined) to \$3.00.

I believe this additional investment is critical for producers. Investment in the Beef Checkoff has not changed in Washington since 2001. At the same time, the inflation-adjusted purchasing power of the original producer-initiated \$1.00 Beef Checkoff has declined to .40 cents. As the beef industry faces more challenges from our protein competition, activism, and declining revenue, addressing these challenges with state beef checkoff dollars has never been more important. I believe this additional investment will be well spent in promoting new innovations in the industry, highlighting beef's positive impact on the environment, consumers tastebuds and consumer health.

Please support Whatcom County ranchers with this \$1.50 increase to the state portion of the Beef Checkoff. We appreciate your representation of us in Olympia and your advocacy for our industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Holt DVM", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Holt DVM, President  
Whatcom County Cattlemen's Association