



TINA KOTEK  
GOVERNOR

August 7, 2025

The Honorable Tobias Read  
Secretary of State  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 976

Dear Secretary Read:

Pursuant to Article V, Section 15b, I am returning Senate Bill 976 to the Legislature without my signature because of my objections described below.

While the bill has good intent, aiming to increase access to pregnancy detection in cattle, it has unintended potential consequences which keep me from making it law. First, the bill allows unlicensed individuals to charge for services that are similar to those provided by licensed veterinarians, which could reduce the certainty that livestock diseases normally detected and reported by licensed professionals will go unreported. With two diseases right now in cattle that can have significant consequences to humans – Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and New World Screwworm (NWS) – the need to maintain a connection between animal owners and licensed veterinarians is critical.

Second, the lack of new registration or licensing requirements in the bill creates the risk of a system where individuals are selling professional services to clients without any oversight or validation that they have, in fact, met the education requirements required.

I recognize the need to increase access to key veterinary services in rural parts of our state, especially for large animals. I believe that we can have continued conversations about how to meet the needs of rural Oregon while also ensuring the health of our cattle statewide.

Sincerely,

Governor Tina Kotek

cc: Speaker of the House Julie Fahey  
Senate President Rob Wagner

TK:smg