

**Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) statement on passage of the food safety bill with the Tester amendment**

**Source: WORC, 406-252-9672, December 21, 2010**

Billings, Mont. – Please attribute the following statement to Jeanne Charter, a rancher and WORC member from Shepherd, Montana.

“The Western Organization of Resource Councils is delighted at the endurance of Senator Jon Tester’s amendment to the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act that has now passed both the U.S. House and Senate. Senator Tester’s amendment protects small farms and small processors from expensive federal regulations. These regulations are unnecessary in light of existing local public health laws and the direct relationship of local farmers to local consumers. The Tester amendment is a huge win for small businesses and family agriculture. If the bill had passed without the Tester amendment, it would have jeopardized many new, vibrant local food businesses springing up across the country, as well as farmers markets and our growing local food system.”

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