

SUPPORT HB1023

Honorable Chair, and the members of the committee.

I'm writing to support HB1023 – not because I'm against innovation, but because I believe we need to be honest about what “lab-grown meat” really means for our climate, our health, and our values.

Early hype painted this as a green, guilt-free future. But new research shows it's not that simple. Running giant bioreactors takes **a lot** of energy – and if that energy comes from coal or gas, it can actually be worse for the planet than regular beef. Plus, the “pharmaceutical-grade” ingredients needed to keep things sterile are super resource-heavy – some studies say the whole process could be 25x more damaging to the climate.

There are real health questions too. Some companies are using genetically modified cells – and we don't yet know the long-term effects. Lab meat also doesn't naturally contain key nutrients like heme iron or B12 unless they're added back in. And if a bioreactor gets contaminated? You're looking at a whole batch of spoiled product – not exactly reassuring.

Ethically, it's not as clean as advertised either. Many still rely on painful biopsies from live animals or fetal calf serum – which doesn't feel like “cruelty-free” to me. And let's be real – a lot of people just aren't comfortable eating “Franken-meat,” and that matters.

HB1023 puts a pause on rushing this into our food system without proper oversight. Let's protect our farmers, our environment, and our right to know what we're eating. I urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,
Mark Meyerovich
District 15