

4 February 2019

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair  
Representative Jeff Reardon, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
900 Court Street NE  
Room H-178  
Salem, OR 97301

Honorable Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

We are writing to express our support for the Department of Agriculture's Wolf Grant Program for this biennium. These grant funds help offset the economic losses borne by the producers in counties with active wolf populations.

Each year our Wolf Depredation and Compensation Committees meet to discuss our producer's requests for compensation. These requests are for confirmed deaths, injured livestock, and missing livestock above normal operations. It has become increasingly apparent to the committees that it is critical to have a well-funded grant program if we are to achieve social tolerance for wolves within the cattle ranching community.

We appreciate the continued support of the Legislature for our producers as we work toward a sustainable and manageable wolf population.

Sincerely,



Eastern Oregon Counties Association

Wallowa County Commission Chair