



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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February 5, 2019

Honorable Kathleen Taylor, Co-chair
Honorable Jeff Reardon, Co-chair
Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court St. NE
Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WOLF GRANT PROGRAM

Dear Senator Taylor and Representative Reardon:

We are writing to urge support for continuation of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Wolf Grant Program, and for substantial increases in funding to Oregon counties. The county Wolf Depredation Compensation programs seek to enhance the efforts of producers as they implement measures to lessen the effects of wolf depredation on their business operations. These grant funds also help offset the economic losses borne by the producers in counties with active wolf populations. In Union County and our neighbor counties, we have provided financial assistance to compensate for livestock deaths, missing livestock, and injuries; and to enhance management approaches, including paying for range riders and purchasing guard dogs.

In Union County we have expended all grant funds available to us, and have requested additional funds. In this regard, we support the bill introduced by Rep. Greg Barreto (R-Cove) to increase the grant funding to a level of \$800,000 and to tie the funding to the number of wolves in our state.

Please support the Wolf Grant Program and ensure adequate funds are available to support the county wolf depredation compensation programs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donna Beverage
Chair

Paul Anderes
Commissioner

R. Matthew Scarfo
Commissioner