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TESTIMONY

SB 642 – Appropriates Moneys to Fund Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund

Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery Committee

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Heard, Senator Kennemer, Senator Patterson and Senator Prozanski:

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association respectfully offers testimony in support of SB 642.

This testimony is in support of SB 642. The Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) has drafted this testimony on behalf of Ted Birdseye, a member of OCA who lives in an area without access to internet, but has dictated the following testimony:

My name is Ted Birdseye and I reside on a 276-acre ranch, 30 miles south of Crater Lake and about an hour and a half outside of Medford. I have had significant problems with wolf depredation of my guard dogs and calves. I have worked closely with state and federal agencies on non-lethal wolf deterrence on my property.

Last year, State and Federal agencies, Wildlife Services and KS-Wild provided the funds and installed a \$48,000 electric fence around my property to deter wolves. Prior to the installation of this fence, I suffered a loss of 6 guard dogs and an estimated 10 calves to wolf depredation. Since the installation of this fence, I have not suffered a depredation and I have only had 3 instances of wolves entering the fenced area.

Please support the funding of wolf depredation compensation because these funds are vital to helping ranchers who face financial losses, such as livestock and guard dogs, but the funding also helps develop non-lethal strategies to deter wolves from private property.

For instance, I have previously been granted compensation funds from my county committee to help in the removal of livestock carcasses which can attract wolves. Recently, our county committee has ran out of funds, which means I do not have access to this service at the moment. Additionally, the electric fence needs to be maintained and upgraded which will have a financial impact on me. Please support SB 642.

Thank you,

Ted Birdseye
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