

April 6, 2021

Chairman Brad Witt
Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Oregon House of Representatives
RE: HB 3167

Dear Chairman Witt and Members of the Committee,

As a fourth generation rancher in Douglas County, I have personally experienced the emotional and economic strain that livestock depredation can have on an agricultural business. Over the years, we have utilized a number of tools to deter predators; both electric and conventional fencing, llamas and guard dogs. These are used in concert with trappers from Wildlife Services. By employing multiple tools, we have been able to keep predator losses to a manageable level.

When a pilot Predator Control District was formed in our area, we whole-heartedly joined to exhibit a little bit more control over our own destiny. By joining with other landowners in the district, we have been able to stabilize funding for this essential service. It is a prime example of a group of people coming together to care for themselves, rather than looking for the government to do it for them. We are more than willing to financially support this valuable program. Much of the land base in our area is well suited for livestock production. Without some forms of deterrents and protections in play, impacts to agriculture as an economic driver will be seen. With wolves now in our county, having the district in place to help all of us navigate through the management of this animal will be very important. I urge you to support HB 3167 to allow this district to continue and increase the fee structure.

I am grateful for this opportunity to provide testimony and thank you for your dedicated service to the State of Oregon. Your support of this bill would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Troy Michaels
Michaels Ranch