



## **Support HB 3075 or HB 3167 – Landowners Funding Predator Control!**

Our coalition asks for your support of HB 3075 or HB 3167, which provide a funding solution for certain counties to retain predator management services and protect local ag-dependent economies. Both bills make some minor substantive changes to the predator district program and repeals the sunset on the program that was created in the 2015 legislative session. Only one bill needs to move forward this session.

Many rural residents rely on effective predator management to prevent costly depredation on their livestock or timber. However, as payments in lieu of timber harvest continue to decrease, the future of current predator management programs in rural counties is tenuous. In 2015, the legislature created a pilot program that provided a voluntary mechanism for agricultural and timber producers to maintain the effectiveness of current predator control services within the county without imposing a tax on the general public. Since its authorization, two counties – Douglas County and Coos County - have approved local programs with great success, allowing landowners to assess themselves to fund critical predator control services.

The program authorized in 2015 gave livestock producers and timberland owners the ability to contribute to the funding of the county's trapping program and free up money to go to other county services—such as law enforcement or road improvements. The predator control district program:

- Allows over 50% of landowners/ producers to petition the county to form a separate funding district to pay for predator management in the district
- Creates an advisory board of producers to establish the boundaries of the district and set the rate of incurred charge annually
- Includes a voluntary opt-out if a landowner/ producer does not want to participate
- Provides alternative funding mechanism to fund county predator control services

HB 3075 and HB 3167 would make a few changes to this program, including allowing the land to be non-contiguous and limiting the ability of federal Wildlife Services to collect indirect and pooled job costs. While we believe the changes proposed by the bills are important, the most critical thing is that we remove the sunset clause this session to allow this successful program to continue.

Without effective predator control, our producers would experience significant losses of livestock (and their offspring) that they cannot absorb. Continuation of the predator control districts program is important to the successful continuation of production agriculture in many rural counties, and we ask you to vote YES on HB 3075 or HB 3167 and move one of these bills out of committee.

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