

April 6, 2021

Chairman Witt and Committee Members,

On behalf all those that were in attendance at today's hearing we would like to say "Thank You" for allowing us to speak. We know this session has been awkward. However, we think it came off well and everyone had a chance to say what they wanted to say. While much of the conversation was about removing the Sunset Clause and this really important. We wanted to reiterate that some of the other changes in HB 3075 and Hb 3167 are equally as important. The raising of the per acre charge from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per acre will insure that by raising fees we will be able to keep up with rising costs; limiting the charges Counties can incur from Wildlife Services (having this in the bill lines up with how other States are billing Counties). This is vitally important as these costs are in some cases the very reason some programs have gone by the wayside. The ability for a County to direct bill saves the County processing (labor) time; allowing Cities to join will give them an option for Predator Services they may not now have; having District boundaries defined by Tax Lots and being non-contiguous makes for easy identification and administration. HB 3167 outlines and clarifies a simple and valid process for a County that wishes to create a new District. This will not apply to Douglas and Coos Counties as they already have a District in place.

We want to mention that all three bills HB 3188 (passed in 2015), HB 3167, HB 3075 all deal simply with revenue collection. They only deal with willing and voluntary property owners using their hard-earned private funds. We all practice non-lethal methods by putting up tight woven wire fencing, electric fencing, using guard dogs, guard Llamas, and video cameras to see that our animals are safe. Having anything in either these bills about non-lethal is not appropriate. We think that discussion should take place at another time and not in these private revenue bills. After all, we would be paying twice and not getting credit for the practices we already do. We also might mention the Wildlife Services already requires us to do these non-lethal practices before they even consider lethal. They also have non-lethal staff here in our State to deal with these issues.

Again, we would like to Thank you for your consideration and hope you will pass one of these bills from committee and send to the House floor with do pass recommendation.

Sincerely,

Ron Hjort, Oakland, Oregon

Dan Dawson, Roseburg, Oregon