



Date: April 6, 2021
To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Re: Support for HB 3075 and HB 3167

Dear Chair Witt, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice Chair Hudson, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), representing Oregon's 36 county governments I am writing to you today to urge your support of HB 3075 and HB 3167, legislation that helps Oregon's counties fund important public services for their constituents.

Many rural Oregonians rely on effective predator management to prevent costly depredation on their livestock or timber. Predator Damage Control Districts provide a voluntary mechanism for agriculture and timber producers to maintain the effectiveness of current predator control services within the county without imposing a tax on the general public. These districts give producers the ability to contribute to the funding of the county's trapping program and free up money to go to other county services—including law enforcement or infrastructure improvements.

Landowners in our rural counties absolutely need the sunset on the successful predator control district pilot program lifted for the current programs in Coos and Douglas Counties to continue to help fund all work related to predator management – from education to nonlethal deterrence to removal of problem predators. It is important to note that the bills do not create a new predator control program or authorize anything new in regards to predator management. In forming a predator control district, landowners are taxing themselves to fund an existing, very long-standing and well-known predator control program. This then allows counties to redirect funds historically used for predator control programs to other public services.

We respectfully request your support of predator control districts.

Sincerely,

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