



MELISSA CRIBBINS
COOS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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Representative Brad Witt, Chairman
House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

RE: HB 3075 and HB 3167 Predator Damage Control Districts

Chairman Witt and Members of the House Committee:

The Coos County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the Predator Damage Control Districts. Coos County was the second county in Oregon to utilize that option after passage of the 2015 HB 3188. The Predator Damage Control District has been very successful. As Commissioners, we have been very active in the process and the District works cooperatively with us.

As you know, counties like Coos have been hit hard economically due to reduced funding. The USDA/Wildlife Services county program was in jeopardy when the ranchers and timber land owners stepped up to the plate to find an avenue to assist with the funding of the county program. The formation of the Predator Damage Control District allowed producers to join voluntarily and pay an assessment to support the county program. The contract with USDA/Wildlife Services is with Coos County; the District only has the authority to secure funding for the program, which they have done very successfully.

It is essential for Coos County that either HB 3075 or HB 3167 moves forward. The sunset in 2015 HB 3188 must be repealed so Coos County can retain the USDA/Wildlife Services predator management program.

Thank you for the opportunity to show our support to this very important funding option for Coos County. Please move forward one of these bills so Coos County can continue a program that has been in existence for nearly 50 years and is critical to our economic future.

Respectfully,

Melissa Cribbins
Coos County Commissioner