

April 27, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

From: Dennis P. Sheehy (Wildlife Committee Chair, Oregon Cattlemen's Association)

Rel/ Senate Bill 2068: Legislation to make Land Owner Preference Tags Permanent

The option for landowners to acquire Land Owner Preference (LOP) tags to harvest deer or elk on their private land should be continued and made permanent. The program has proven to be a successful way for a land owner to benefit by providing security, shelter and food for elk and deer. The LOP program has, indirectly, benefitted communities in Eastern Oregon. For example, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Wallowa County receive a number of LOP tags to use on their Zumwalt Prairie Preserve. Local non-profit institutions such as the Wallowa Schools Educational Foundation are allocated the proceeds from the raffle of specific LOP tags to hunters.

The LOP tag program is working well and, in many situations, creates a win-win situation for ODFW, the landowner, and the community. It is not "broke" so don't "fix it".

Sincerely,

Dennis P. Sheehy