

**Anderson Sheep Company, Inc.
34586 Ranch Drive
Brownsville, OR. 97327**

Feb. 14, 2023

To: Senator Jeff Golden, Chairman and
Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources

Re: SB 199

As a fourth generation sheep producer in Brownsville, OR, I have grave concerns with the policy changes proposed in SB 199. SB 199 would drastically change the existing method of handling predator-control practices in Oregon. First, SB 199 would repeal the existing legislative provision which grants those of us involved in agriculture and livestock production the right to control predatory animals (ORS 610.060). Further, the bill proposes to remove the authority of the State Department of Agriculture to administer laws governing predatory animals and instead grants the State Fish & Wildlife Commission authority to establish the rules governing predatory animals.

In order to try to quantify the seriousness of this problem for sheep producers, we are forced to rely on the most recent predator loss statistics from USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Based on USDA's 2019 statistics, predators accounted for over 30 percent of the death losses for adult sheep and over 40 percent of the lamb losses. I want to stress these are conservative loss estimates, as a great many losses are never reported. In 2019, 15.8 percent of the American sheep operations that stopped raising sheep cited predator loss as the primary reason.

To provide a more recent and closer to home illustration of the predator problem, attached is a photo showing a cougar taking one of my lambs on property located only eight miles east of I-5 near Brownsville, OR. Death losses to predators are a serious threat to the livelihood of every Oregon sheep producer.

It is important to remember that sheep producers utilize every tool available to protect their flocks, including many non-lethal options, as well as working closely with USDA's Wildlife Services personnel. However, the regulation of predatory animal management on agricultural operations should remain in the hands of the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture — not the ODFW Commission.

I urge you to oppose SB 199.

Sincerely,
Reed Anderson

Attachment to Anderson Ranches letter Re: SB 199



Cougar taking a lamb near I-5 in Willamette Valley.