



TO: Representative Ken Helm, Chair House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water
FM: Shaun W Robertson, President Grant County Farm Bureau
DT: 04/03/2023
RE: SUPPORT FOR HB3052 -1 AMENDMENT

On behalf of the Grant County Farm Bureau (GCFB), its Board of Directors and Membership, I am writing to you in support of the -1 Amendment to HB3052, which proposes to create a Task Force on Elk and Deer Damage Compensation Funding.

The GCFB has a very long history with working towards solutions for managing damage to privately owned land from state owned wildlife. We acknowledge that there have been many positive developments in state recognition of the rights of landowners to prevent injury to private property from wildlife and a return to more flexibility for us to manage wildlife when it occupies privately owned habitats.

However, we also recognize that much more work is required, particularly to assess the actual costs to landowners from housing the state's wildlife. The last comprehensive wildlife damage survey for Oregon was conducted in 1997¹. Since then, very little work has been done to evaluate the specific financial and other impacts to Oregon landowners and their private habitats from wildlife. The -1 Amendment to HB3052 will remedy that crucial informational gap by "investigat[ing] elk and deer damage on private, agricultural lands in the eight counties". Such information will be essential not only to making recommendations for the proposed compensation pilot program but for understanding the vital role that private landowners and privately owned big game habitats play in terms of Oregon's big game production.

¹ Oregon Department of Agriculture. Wildlife damage to Oregon Agriculture: 1997 Survey Summary.