



**BETSY CLOSE**  
**OREGON STATE SENATOR**  
**DISTRICT 8**

Testimony SB 503  
March 19, 2013  
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
HR C

Thank you, Chair Dingfelder and Members of the Committee. I am Senator Betsy Close.

At first glance Senate Bill 503 might remind you of the well-known song, "Home on the Range", but in actuality, this bill addresses a real problem for some communities. Large livestock, left unattended and allowed to roam at-large, can come into conflict with modern society. Current statute does not provide a mechanism for law enforcement to sight those who fail to properly restrain their bison. This is what has happened in Linn County and at least four other counties where bison live.

And yet, we still have "open range" and private lands that are fenced. Currently, the Department of Agriculture has authority to determine the "adequacy of the fence" should cattle or equines trespass. It is my understanding that due to a technical issue with the scientific classification of bison, they are not included with other cattle (or bovine) in the definition of "estrays animals." This bill would add "bison" to the list of estray animals that the law describes in ORS 607.007.

Thank you.