



Umatilla County

Wolf Depredation and Compensation Advisory Committee

February 24, 2015

Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court St NE Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

It is my understanding that the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) will be presenting their budget before your committee the week of February 23, 2015. As such, I would like to offer this letter in support ODA and the Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance County Block Grant Program for your consideration.

As you know, the ranching and farming industries are important components of Oregon's economy. According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon's wolf population continues to increase in distribution and abundance throughout the state to the point of establishing breeding populations. As in other western states with wolf populations, livestock producers in Oregon have been affected financially due to livestock loss from wolf depredations.

ODA's Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant program provides pass-through grant funds to counties to implement county wolf depredation compensation programs. County programs can distribute these funds to persons who suffer loss or injury to livestock or working dogs as a result of wolf depredation and provide financial assistance to persons who implement livestock management and/or nonlethal wolf deterrent techniques designed to discourage wolf depredation of livestock.

On behalf of Umatilla County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee, I would urge this committee in its continued support and allocation of funds to ODA's Wolf Depredation Grant Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Baker".

Jerry Baker
Chair
County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee

c: Senator Bill Hansell
Representative Greg Barreto
Representative Greg Smith