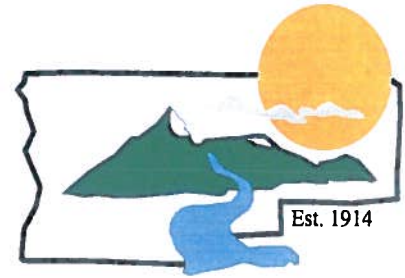


JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



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February 25, 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:


We offer this letter in support of the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance County Block Grant Program.

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 the citizens of Jefferson County we would urge the committee's continued support and allocation of funds to ODA's Wolf Depredation Grant Program.

Sincerely,


Wayne Fording, Chairman


Mae Huston, Commissioner


Mike Ahern, Commissioner

Mae Huston, Commissioner

Wayne Fording, Chair

Mike Ahern, Commissioner