

April 14, 2015

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

RE: HB3188

Chairman Rep. Witt, Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB3188.

We have raised sheep on the same ranch in Douglas County for over 40 years. For years we had very little predator problems. As our area has become more developed the predators have learned to intermingle with the humans. They have become emboldened, killing lambs to the point that it threatens the very survival of our sheep production venture.

We have tried many nonlethal means to deter predators without any success. The only thing that has proven to prevent livestock killings is the work done by the US Wildlife Service trapper. Douglas County contributes to the funding of the local trapper positions. With declining county revenue, this funding is in jeopardy in Douglas County.

Given the unfortunate county financial circumstances, it only makes sense that those of us in need of these services work together in funding them. We urge you support HB3188 and give us the opportunity to finance the trapping services that have become a necessity for the livestock industry in Douglas County. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike and Shelley Wetherell", written in a cursive style.

Mike and Shelley Wetherell
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