

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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ROBERT "BOB" MAIN JOHN SWEET MELISSA CRIBBINS

April 16, 2015

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon

RE: HB 3188

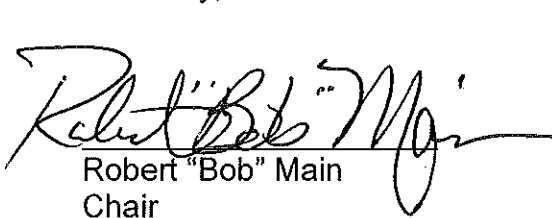
Chairman Witt and members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee:

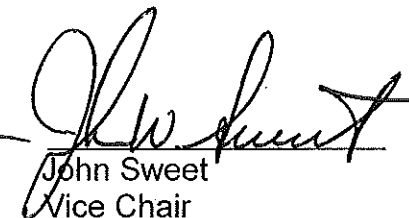
As Coos County Commissioners we support the passage of HB 3188. Predation from wildlife is an economic issue in Coos County because of damage to timber, agriculture, infra-structure and public safety. Annually, we lose millions of dollars due to wildlife damage.

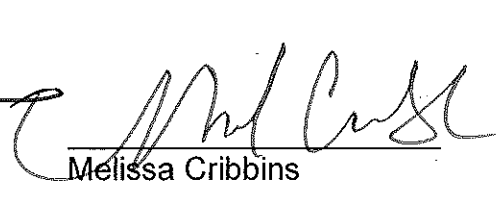
As you know, the Wildlife Services program is a cooperative program between Coos County, USDA/APHIS, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, ranchers and the timber industry. Coos County government is having difficulty maintaining essential services and has had to decrease funding of the program for the last several years.

The goal of HB 3188 would be to allow the formation of a district within the county to assess users of the existing program and those who benefit from the program. We need a way to provide stable funding for the Wildlife Services program which is essential to our economic existence and public safety.

Sincerely,


Robert "Bob" Main
Chair


John Sweet
Vice Chair


Melissa Cribbins