

Representative Brad Witt, Chairman
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

4/16/2015

Representative Witt and members of the committee,

My name is David Briggs, I reside at 4340 Gazley Rd, Myrtle Creek, Oregon. I am here to testify in favor of HB3188.

I am a fifth generation rancher in Douglas County where my wife and I raise sheep and cattle. We run guard dogs with our sheep, build fences to try to keep coyotes out and move sheep several fields away to disrupt predators, among other tactics to try to prevent predation. There are some areas of the ranch here we no longer run sheep because of the increased level of predators.

Predation is a major cost in raising sheep and it will continue to be a challenge to the livestock industry. HB 3188 will help ranchers by allowing for stable funding from local contributions to USDA's wildlife services. I depend on the expertise of wildlife services to help manage predation. Douglas County is having increasing pressure on their budget and their ability to continue contributing at the current level is doubtful. By passing HB3188 land owners and ranchers can choose to belong to this district and be part of stable funding along with having a county governing body to help ensure that we have access to the unique professional skills that wildlife services provide.

Thank you for this opportunity to address this very important issue and I ask for your support of HB3188.

MEASURE HB 3188
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SUBMITTED BY: David Briggs