



February 22, 2017

Joint Ways & Means Committee, Natural Resources Subcommittee
Co-Chairs, Senator Lew Frederick, Representative Brad Witt

Re: SB 5502, Support USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of restoring funds to the USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services program.

The USDA-APHIS- Wildlife Services program provides valuable services and economic benefit to Oregon by addressing human-wildlife conflicts. Agriculture, forestry, rural and urban communities are all served by the Wildlife Services program.

The Governor's recommended budget for the 2017-2019 biennium eliminates general funds for Wildlife Services in the Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Fish and Wildlife budgets.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation strongly supports restoring the general funds and budget authority for the Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Fish and Wildlife to contract with USDA-Wildlife Services for animal depredation and predator management. These programs are critical for wildlife management. Transferring these resources to other budgetary needs will significantly impact the interests of Oregon's farmers, ranchers, sportsmen and rural and urban communities.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation respectfully asks that the committee restore funding for Wildlife Services in the Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Fish and Wildlife budgets.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

David D. Wiley
The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation