



TESTIMONY: House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

February 8, 2018

Oregon Farm Bureau SUPPORTS HB 4106

Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Farm Bureau writes in support of HB 4106, which would require the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to report on wolf populations annually to the legislature and recommends coupling wolf population estimates and compensation for wolf depredation on livestock.

As Oregon has supported wolf reintroduction in Oregon, wolf populations have exploded and ranchers are the ones bearing the burden of their growing population. Coupling wolf populations with compensation would help ensure that all Oregonians do their part to help pay for the damage caused by Oregon's newest predator. Wolves have a direct impact on herd health, causing weight loss, low birth weight, miscarriage, and, frequently, death. When wolves cause direct impacts to livestock, ranchers should have some recourse and ability for compensation.

We have seen a dramatic increase in depredations as wolf populations have continued to climb statewide. HB 4016 will help ease some of that burden, and ensure that Oregon's ranchers do not bear the full cost of the state's policy decision to reintroduce wolves in Oregon.

HB 4106 requires Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department to report wolf growth to the legislature in order to facilitate budget allocations for wolf predation compensation. The bill encourages the legislature to continually tie the funding to the compensation fund to the population in Oregon.

Please contact Mary Anne Cooper at maryanne@oregonfb.org with any questions.