



JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

Board of Commissioners

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10 South Oakdale, Room 214
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February 7, 2018

Representative Brian Clem
Chair, House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Re: House Bill (HB) 4106 Relating to Wolves - Written Testimony for Public Hearing

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

Jackson County strongly supports the provisions of House Bill 4106. The Wolf Predation Loss Compensation Program, funded through the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund, provides necessary support to ranchers and other livestock owners in Jackson County when livestock is lost to wolf predation, and provides preventative, non-lethal measures to attempt to reduce livestock loss. However, due to the restrictions of the Endangered Species Act, our citizens are unable to defend their livestock when wolves prey on their animals. Unfortunately, the Wolf Predation Loss Compensation Program is significantly underfunded and unable to provide the level of compensation and support our citizens deserve. In just a few weeks, ranchers in Jackson County suffered three kills from wolf predation as confirmed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. With the increasing number of wolves in our community, these kill numbers will only continue to grow.

The provisions of HB 4106 will ensure that the Legislature has accurate information every biennium as to the loss of animals our citizens have endured from wolf predation. Further, HB 4106 will ensure that the Legislature provides adequate funds, to the extent practicable, to address the burdens our citizens endure from having wolves prey on their livestock and working animals, while being unable to provide protection to their animals. As such, Jackson County is strongly in support of the provisions of HB 4106.

Thank you and please support this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

RICK DYER, Chair
Board of Commissioners

RD:jb/tf
By email