



Association of
Oregon Counties

February 8, 2018

Representative Brian Clem, Chair
Representatives McLain & Sprenger, Vice Chairs
And Members of the
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Association of Oregon Counties supports HB 4106

For Oregon's rural counties, agriculture is an important driver of economic and social stability. In many parts of rural Oregon, ranching and livestock are large components of the agriculture sector. Across Oregon, cattle have been a top agricultural commodity in the state two of the last three years.

Since wolves have been reintroduced into rural Oregon, their populations and range have grown. Rural livestock has been increasingly preyed upon by wolves, in an increasingly wide area. In response, Baker, Crook, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco and Wheeler Counties have formed County Wolf Predation Compensation Programs, and Douglas county is forming a program.

HB 4106 will require ODFW to report to the legislature biennially on the estimated change in wolf population. Further, the bill requires the Legislature to fund county wolf predation compensation programs to a level sufficient to carry out the essential features of the program, including compensating those individuals who suffer losses.

State compensation is important to help secure federal matching funds, and to help develop long term plans for non-lethal management tactics.

AOC urges your support of the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Morgan', is written over a horizontal line.

Susan Morgan
Natural Resources Policy Manager