



February 8, 2019

Chair Brad Witt
House Committee on Natural Resources

RE: HB 2067; sunset dates for Oregon Landowner Damage Program

Chair Witt, members of the committee:

Oregon Cattlemen's Association is the voice for ranchers across our state. Our producers are stewards of Oregon's natural resources and rely closely on these resources for their livelihoods. As one of Oregon's largest industry sectors, we are an economic engine for the state economy. Our member's operations are more than small businesses; they are part of Oregon's history and culture, and family traditions throughout the state.

Beyond our contribution to Oregon's economy, our members are significant providers of habitat and feed for Oregon's diverse wildlife. Ranchers and their families are Oregon's frontline conservationists. However, these efforts often come at a price. While growing food sources for our animals, we are often exposed to damage from elk, deer and other species that are naturally drawn to the food sources provided in fields, pastures and rangeland.

OCA and our members have worked closely with the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Department for 25 years to find support and solution for private property damage caused by elk. The Oregon Landowner Damage Protection has been an important tool in helping our members, reduce problematic foraging on private lands, and manage herds. The use of landowner tags and other tools such as controlled hunts and application of unfilled tags for addressing damage is important not only to protect ranchers investments, but also to assure that Oregon is committed to assisting landowners in our contributions to sustaining Oregon's wildlife populations.

We urge the committee to pass HB 2067 and indefinitely extend this critical and successful program.

Thank you,



Jerome Rosa
Executive Director