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TESTIMONY

SB 642 – Appropriates Moneys to Fund Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund

Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery Committee

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Heard, Senator Kennemer, Senator Patterson and Senator Prozanski:

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association respectfully offers testimony in support of SB 642.

I am Veril Nelson, a rancher in Douglas County Oregon. I serve as a co-chair of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association Wolf Committee. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 642.

As wolf numbers increase in Oregon and spread throughout the State, more damage to livestock will prevail. The compensation to farmers and ranchers will need to increase. The current program compensation is not enough for missing animals or weight loss. A study in Idaho showed that for every confirmed kill, 7 other dead animals could not be confirmed because of other animals destroying evidence or animals not found because of rough terrain.

People need to understand that losses are not just killed animals. There are huge losses due to weight loss, pregnancy losses because animals are chased and prevented from eating. Those losses need to be addressed. Please support SB 642.

Thank you for accepting my testimony.

Veril Nelson

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