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April 6, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife Recovery; others

Re: I OPPOSE [SB 642]...AS WRITTEN...NEEDS RESTRUCTURING...AND RESUBMISSION!
The Committee needs to read: [ORS 610.150].

[SB 642] excerpt states, "SECTION 1. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the State Department of Agriculture, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, **out of the General Fund, the amount of \$800,000** for deposit in *the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund* established under ORS 610.155." This "FUND" is "out of control."

This is a "tough nut to crack." On one hand Oregon wants to have the cute little furry wolves prancing around the forests and on the other hand, when the wolf runs out of deer and or elk to chase and eat; a fat lumbering cow is easy picking. What would you do if you were the wolf? Chase a deer and or elk who can out run you or, mosey on down to the ranch for a side of beef? If the cow was pregnant at the time of the feast, the wolf would get to eat some veal (before it is shipped-off to California). **The carcasses of calves may never be found.**

The above scenario could be applied to other animals being raised by ranchers and farmers.

How are ranchers and farmers going to be equitably compensated for their losses in livestock and in particular, the losses in weight of their livestock? [SB 642] will not even come close. Counties will always take a funding cut to administer their predation programs and these programs are inconsistent from one county to another. Meanwhile the ranchers and farmers must become "range riders" or hire them. In any case they lose a lot of money.

The losses in weight from the livestock must occur as some of them "running for their very lives" thus the surviving livestock are much leaner than their fat, slower friends; some of which become tasty feasts for the wolves.

The problems with the "Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund [ORS 610.155]" are the following:

How does a rancher prove livestock losses? A carcass can disappear. Now make that concept plural.

Does the Audits Division conduct performance and financial audits of this fund? Are there transparency issues?

How much is the General Fund going to be relied upon as livestock losses soar?

Wolves aren't stupid. Livestock are easy "kills" meaning wolf populations will continue to grow creating more hungry wolves and more livestock losses. What's going to happen if a range rider gets bucked off their horse, breaks their leg and is eaten by wolves?

Effective Non-lethal methods have yet to prove themselves on the battlefield.

Until all the ranchers and farmers are adequately compensated for their livestock losses, the "Management of Wolves" should focus on lethal means. This doesn't suggest, imply and or infer the wholesale slaughter of wolves but, the "problem herd" of wolves needs to be culled without governmental interventions such as buying tags or permits.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ David S. Wall