

Revenue Committee Members,

My name is Matthew Brady, I am a sheep farmer from Azalea Oregon. I am writing to ask you to move HB 3167 out of the revenue committee. This bill simply removes a sunset on an existing program that allowed myself and other landowners in my county to assess ourselves to help our county pay for its existing predator control contract with USDA Wildlife Services. HB 3167 passed out of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee with a "do pass" recommendation, and was referred to Revenue because of a misunderstanding about the potential impact on county tax rolls.

- This bill is supported by AOC and will have no impact on county revenues. It simply removes the sunset on a very successful program that has allowed landowners like myself to pitch in and help the county fund the cost of USDA Wildlife Services predator management. Predator Management is critical for my operation because sheep are vulnerable to the many predators present in the state of Oregon, and even the loss of a single animal of mine causes significant financial impact to my operation.

- USDA Wildlife Services always looks to non-lethal methods of predator control first, and they keep extensive records on the predator control they do and methods they use that are publicly available. In addition I currently use non-lethal methods at my own expense in an effort to reduce predation on my sheep. Wildlife Services does very focused predator control, only using lethal methods when needed. If we do not fund USDA Wildlife Services to do this work, I will have to do it myself, and I will not be able to be nearly as focused in my removal as trained USDA agents, and many landowners lack money to pursue nonlethal measures first without the assistance of USDA Wildlife Services.

- I am one of the 296 paying members of the Douglas County Predator Control District. Our District serves a variety of landowner types over 74,228 acres of private ownership. The County has records that are publicly available that state how much money they devote to predator control and what portion of that comes from our predator control district.

- I understand that some groups do not like predator management, but I think most of their concerns about this bill are based on both misunderstandings of this funding mechanism and misunderstandings of how USDA Wildlife Services does their work. This bill simply removes the sunset on an existing funding mechanism – it does not authorize any changes to predator management or create any new predator management programs. USDA Wildlife Services emphasizes non-lethal management, and their work is all publicly available.

- The policy committee recommended passing this bill, and there is no revenue impact. I urge you to move it forward. Thank you for your time.