

Submitter: Sharon Waterman

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural
Resources

Measure: SB5509

As a Coos and Curry County landowner I encourage the Wildlife Services pass through money be added to the budget. This program is essential for the livestock and timber industries in Coos and Curry Counties. Currently, the producer pays their share of dollars for the Wildlife Services program and we believe the State should also pay their share even though producer dollars is the greater of the two. Just this past 6 weeks, one of the beginning ranchers lost 50 lambs due to multiple coyotes. When one first starts out in the business it is not easy to take those losses plus pay for a portion of the Wildlife Services help to remove the coyote plus the personal time involved. This has been an existing program for ODA and ODFW for years. On our ranch operation we used non-lethal methods for years, however, they do not always work and after having such huge losses as well as a wolf in our community, we sold our sheep herd and are now retired. Please vote to put the Wildlife Services pass through dollars back in the ODA budget. These are the governments wildlife and management should be paid for by the people of Oregon not the individual natural resource producers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important issue to producers in our area.