

Submitter: Matthew Brady

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: SB5509

I am a fifth generation sheep farmer in rural southern Douglas County. I regularly experience conflicts with predatory animals and depend upon USDA's Wildlife Services staff to resolve issues with problem predators. Most recently this past December I lost a you ram to a cougar, which deprived me of approximately \$10,000 value in progeny over it's natural lifespan. The Wildlife Services agent was able to identify what kind of predator had killed the ram, attempted to track it, and set a non-lethal trap for the animal; all things that I relied on his professional experience for. The money that passes through ODFW's budgets for USDA Wildlife Services is essential to continuing to provide for adequate protection of the herds and flocks that provide livelihoods to the farmers and ranchers that raise food and fiber for the citizens of our state.

Please ensure that pass through funds for USDA Wildlife Services are included in ODFW's biennial budget!