



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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March 28, 2023

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
RE: HB 2631

Chair Helm, Vice-chairs Hartman and Owens, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is Oregon's largest state-centric hunter conservation organization, representing 10,000 sportsmen and women throughout 26 chapters in the state. Our mission statement is 'to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage' and we have a strong history of advocating for science-based wildlife management.

OHA leadership was part of the hard work that went into the wolf management plan adopted by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife in 2019. As part of that plan, the compensation fund was established to assist landowners and producers by attempting to offset damage incurred by a growing wolf population. Compensation of landowners and producers is an important component of wolf management efforts, showing those most impacted by wolves that they are a valued part of the management process.

OHA supports the -3 amendment to HB 2631. We urge the committee to recognize the sacrifices livestock producers have endured with wolves on the landscape by appropriately compensating their losses, not just in the animals themselves but also for the cascade of economic impacts the loss of an animal has generationally over life of a herd. Additionally, the loss due to lower weaning weights and reduced breeding programs due to the constant stress of predator harassment should be included in the calculus.

We urge the committee to support HB 2631 with the -3 amendment.

Thank you,
Amy Patrick
Policy Director