

March 24, 2025

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House Agriculture, Land  
Use, Natural Resources &  
Water

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee:

Douglas County Farm Bureau is in strong support of House Bill 2403, which authorizes the formation of Livestock and Community Protection Districts in Oregon counties.

DCFB represents over 400 farming and ranching and natural resource families in Douglas County, Oregon. Many of these families have had to seek the assistance from Wildlife Service agents to determine cause of death of animals when losses occur. If a predatory animal caused the livestock loss, Wildlife Service agents can provide steps to limit future predation.

Douglas County had historically been able to fund these services to our residents from tax dollars, but as budget cuts came to the county, Wildlife Services received less and less funding. Our member families decided that this service was important enough they would help fund it themselves through a Predator Control District authorized by HB 3188 in 2015. The sunset of that bill in 2022 was a harsh blow to farmers and ranchers around the State. Without passing HB 2403 livestock and livelihoods continue to be put at undue risk to loss. Our county has funded our two Wildlife Service agents for our county, but with the ever-present risk that these positions may be lost our members have continued uncertainty in their ability to protect their animals and natural resources.

Many of our members employ non-lethal measures for preventative protection to prevent attacks, including livestock guardian dogs, predator lights, fladry, bells, electric fence, and gathering animals at night to name a few. Wildlife services also advise ways to prevent predation by making sure fences are kept in good repair or keeping animal carcasses buried well to not entice predators and recommending non-lethal measures that a producer may not be using. When Wildlife Services agents have to take a problem animal, it is only after predation has occurred, not before. This minimizes the take of animals to only those that cause harm.

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## Douglas County Farm Bureau

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The loss of our members' livestock and natural resources to predatory animals without the specialized expertise that Livestock and Community Protection Districts fund causes undue emotional strain on top of financial loss to our already burdened members. We want to have a thriving Agricultural and Natural resource community in Douglas County. Please support HB 2403.

Sincerely,

**Troy Michaels**  
President  
Douglas County Farm Bureau  
[dougcofb@gmail.com](mailto:dougcofb@gmail.com)

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