

Submitter: Dennis Patrick Sheehy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

I had signed up to present in-person testimony at the Ways and Means community meeting in LaGrande, OR on April 11, 2025. However, time limits to the meeting did not allow my testimony in support of HB 3657 to be heard.

Written Testimony in support of HB 3657 Establishing "Pilot Areas to address wildlife Damage" follows:

I am the Wildlife Committee Chairman for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, As such, the OCA fully supports the establishment of pilot areas to address wildlife damage throughout the state. Representative Bobby Levy sponsored the bill as a member of the Committee on Water, Natural Resources and Wildfire. The bill was unanimously supported and passed by committee members, and was sent to the Ways and Means Committee for funding consideration.

The reasons that HB3657 should receive funding include: 1) wildlife damage to crops and forage is a state wide issue, 2) the bill is non-partisan, and 3) the bill is non-controversial.(major wildlife ngos favored a neutral position).

Farmers, ranchers and other private property owners fully support HB 3657.

Establishing pilot areas throughout the state will facilitate finding the system and methods to address wildlife damage. Pilots will also facilitate developing a collaboration approach between private property owners, state and federal agencies, and other groups with a vested interest in resolving the wildlife damage issue. The pilot areas will also enhance the possibility of finding alternative ways to fund prevention and compensation for wildlife damage that hopefully will reduce the need for direct monetary support from the state.

Thank you.

Dennis P. Sheehy (OCA Wildlife Committee Chairman).