



March 25, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
1332 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harriett Hageman  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Val Hoyer  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries  
1332 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Hageman and Ranking Member Hoyle,

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and the Public Lands Council (PLC) write to express our strong support for H.R. 845, the Pet and Livestock Protection Act of 2025. This critical legislation recognizes what producers on the ground have known for years—the gray wolf has fully recovered. Yet, livestock producers face the reality of wolf depredation with little to no recourse.

NCBA represents nearly 26,000 direct members and 44 state cattle associations, totaling about 178,000 collective members nationwide. NCBA's vision is to be the trusted leader and definitive voice of the U.S. cattle and beef industry. Since 1968, PLC has been the only organization in Washington, D.C., representing the unique interest of cattle and sheep producers across the West who hold the 22,000 federal grazing permits.

Federal and state agencies have verified that wolf numbers are stable or increasing across much of their range. Despite these facts, the species remains entangled in bureaucratic delays and legal challenges that prevent responsible management. The Pet and Livestock Protection Act takes a necessary step toward aligning federal policy with the biological reality of wolf recovery while ensuring that rural communities and livestock producers are not left to bear the full burden of unchecked predation.

The impact of wolf depredation on livestock operations is significant. Each year, ranchers suffer financial losses due to direct kills, injuries, stress-related weight loss, and lower reproductive success in their herds. Federal protections have created an imbalance, where wolves can attack livestock with impunity, yet ranchers face legal obstacles when attempting to defend their livelihoods. H.R. 845 provides much-needed

flexibility for states and local communities to implement science-based management strategies that balance healthy predator populations with the economic stability of livestock producers.

The legislation also acknowledges the need for common-sense policies that reflect the reality of predator-livestock interactions. Rather than allowing continued delays in wolf delisting and management decisions dictated by lawsuits rather than science, this legislation ensures that rural communities have a voice in managing these predators.

Public lands ranchers and beef producers are critical in conservation and responsible land stewardship. They work alongside wildlife daily, and their livelihood depends on a balanced and well-managed ecosystem. The Pet and Livestock Protection Act is a long-overdue step in recognizing that effective wildlife conservation does not mean sacrificing rural communities and agricultural producers.

PLC and NCBA support the passage of this legislation and encourage swift action to move it forward. Enactment of this bill will strengthen wildlife conservation efforts while ensuring that America's livestock producers can continue their essential role as stewards of our nation's natural resources and landscapes. We appreciate your leadership on this critical issue and look forward to seeing this bill signed into law.

We urge the Subcommittee to support H.R. 845 and relieve ranchers who have long been forced to shoulder the consequences of outdated policies. Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to supporting rural economies and science-based wildlife management.

Sincerely,  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
Public Lands Council  
American Sheep Industry Association  
Association of National Grasslands