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March 24, 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 Hoyle  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries  
1332 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Support for H.R. 845 Pet and Livestock Protection Act of 2025**

Dear Chairwoman Hageman and Ranking Member Hoyle:

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) was established in 1913 for the purpose of representing Oregon's ranchers at the state and federal level. Today OCA represents the 11,000 ranchers who call Oregon home and raise 1.2 million head of cattle across the state with cattle in every county. Please accept this letter of support for HR 845 "Pet and Livestock Protection Act of 2025". The protection of the cattle dogs, horses and cattle is an extremely high priority for OCA.

As wolves continue to expand across Oregon, more and more ranchers are forced to address the presence of wolves while still listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). While listed, this is the situation in ¾ of the state of Oregon, ranchers do not have access to the one tool needed when a repeat offender wolf focus's in on livestock as a significant part of their diet, lethal control.

The effect of the presence of wolves to the producer both increase the producer's direct costs of doing business and reduces the revenue received. The list of costs includes depredations, reduced weaning weight of calves, weight loss by cows, conception rate reductions and management costs. The first four are lost income to the producer because of reduced cattle performance or physical loss of the animals. The last item, management costs, encompasses a large group of issues that cause increased cost of operation. Management issues can be broken down into costs of implementing non-lethal activities to attempt to mitigate the impact of the wolf's presence; management costs due to implementation of government regulations and management plans; increased costs of livestock handling; increased costs through injury and death of livestock; and the loss of range access because the wolves' presence in given places makes it unwise, to run livestock in that specific area of range.

For wolf management to be successful ranchers need all the tools including successful communication among ranchers and agencies, prevention, compensation and control of chronic depredating individuals. The ESA takes lethal control away from managers. Where wolves are protected by the ESA in Oregon some individuals have become chronic depredators with dozens of wolf attacks (over 40 head killed) attributed to these individuals over the years, and yet wolf managers cannot remove that wolf from the landscape.

Without lethal control (protected by the ESA) wolves become habituated to people and lose their fear. An example of this was OR158 the wolf recently removed for human safety concerns. This wolf had killed many livestock but could not be removed until it began living close to small communities and ranches creating a human safety situation allowing the rare if not unheard-of removal of a chronic depredating wolf.

The single species management under the ESA is a fundamentally flawed way of managing wildlife and its restrictive regulations hampers sound wolf management. Delisting the wolves in the lower 48 states, including Oregon will allow managers to fully implement the Oregon Conservation and Management Plan (Oregon Wolf Plan). The Oregon Wolf Plan is a proven plan that protects the wolf while giving Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife while incorporating the control of chronic depredating wolves in a timely, targeted and in a humane manner which reduces ranchers' losses as well as the funds to cover compensation of those losses.

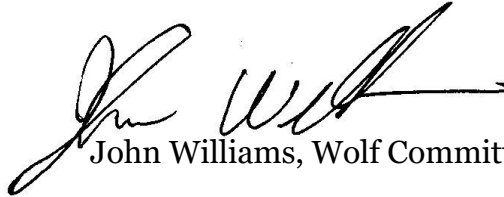
The Oregon Cattlemen's Association supports HR 845 and encourages the Committee on Natural Resources to pass this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

OREGON CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION



Matt McElligott, President



John Williams, Wolf Committee Co-Chair