

Members of Congress,

I am writing in strong support of HB845 – the Pet and Livestock Protection Act of 2025. I am a veterinarian and rancher's wife in Southern Oregon. Less than 2 months ago, my family and our neighbors experienced a living nightmare. My husband came upon a collared grey wolf, OR158, as he had just killed a newborn calf in our calving grounds on our private property. The mother cow was heaving and defeated. The wolf had no fear of my husband, as he drove up in a big tractor, and the wolf continued to walk through our herd like he was at the grocery store. My husband called Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and asked permission to shoot the wolf - he was told no, even if he killed another calf or our dog right in front of him, and this is when we found out that grey wolves, under the ESA, are literally untouchable for any offense. We had this wolf in our backyard for a month. He continued to kill calves despite our best efforts to deter him with every non-lethal option. He only became more brazen. He came within 50 yards of our home, my veterinary clinic, and our horses and other pets. Our small children weren't allowed to go outside. Ultimately, our pleas for help were heard, and the USFWS finally made the decision to lethally remove OR158 after a declaration of emergency was proclaimed by our county leaders. We are beyond grateful for this unprecedented action to lethally take an animal protected by the ESA - in this situation it was absolutely the right thing to do. It should not have been that hard to push this "right decision" through. We have become aware that so many Americans have been living this same nightmare every day with no reprieve.

The science proves and the experts agree the grey wolf is no longer in need of protection under the ESA. This has become a dangerous political issue that is in the hands of people that don't have any knowledge or experience living with these wolves.

Congressman Huffman, Congresswoman Hoyle, and others in opposition - I beg you to look at the facts, the science, and listen to your experts, the biologists. You have voiced no valid reasoning to not delist the wolf. You seem to have dismissed this major issue that affects Americans across the nation, and instead you spend your microphone time slandering the President. You were voted for and hired by the American people to make policy and laws that HELP your constituents. DO YOUR JOB. Are you even aware of the wolf issues that are happening in your own states?! Go see it for yourself. Come see our pain and despair, and then decide if you will still be against this bill.

It is time for wolf management to return to the states and local levels, where informed decisions can be made for each specific situation. We are not asking for all the wolves to be killed. We are pleading they be managed by the local experts.

Stop making this a political issue, and help us. Our constitutional rights to protect our livelihoods and property have been revoked, as well as our right to live in peace with life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The wellbeing of thousands of families and their livelihoods depend on this bill passing. Take it seriously and acknowledge the reality and gravity of this plea for help.

Sincerely,
Elise Flynn, DVM

Members of Congress,

I am writing in strong support of HB845 – the Pet and Livestock Protection Act of 2025. I am a 4th generation cattle rancher in Southeastern Oregon. On January 30, 2025 I unfortunately had my first of now many experiences with wolf depredation. I stood over a freshly killed newborn calf with a gray wolf, OR158, leisurely walking our calving grounds for 40 minutes. This predator was untouchable and he knew it. Driving up to the dead calf and exhausted mother I was within 50 yards of this wolf and he didn't make one move to leave the area or our cows. We sat watching each other in the wide open, desert flat. Over the next 2 weeks we had 3 confirmed kills and countless missing calves. Our neighbors also experienced 3 confirmed kills and another 3 probable kills. All of these depredations were the result of OR158's presence in our rural ranching community for less than 1 month. The financial, mental and emotional toll is immeasurable. Over the course of February this wolf was located with 50 yards of my wife's veterinary clinic, our horse barn and home. We are raising our 2 children here and hope that they can love and care for the land and livestock here someday as well. I have little optimism that this will be the case however, as long as they are growing up in fear of even going outside.

Ranchers, like myself, are the true conservationists. We work diligently along side agencies such as ODFW, USFWS, OWRD, BLM, USFS, NRCS and FSA. I voluntarily sit on 2 boards, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation and Chewaucan Watershed Collaborative. I do this because I care about our land and the sustainability of it for future generations. Im enrolled in a complex CCAA program for the conservation of Sage Grouse. No one wants to acknowledge the fact that we just lost 10 years of Sage Grouse progress when this same wolf spent 3 days killing grouse on a crucial lek. The local government agencies understand and share in my frustration of this one species approach. Things need to change. Decision making needs to be returned to the local level.

Delist the wolf. Give local authorities the ability to take care of local issues.

Sincerely,
Thomas Flynn
Rancher & Conservationist