

() Discussion only

(X) Action

FROM (DEPT/ DIVISION): County Counsel

SUBJECT: Letter of Support

<p>Background:</p> <p>The County has been requested to provide a letter of support to federal legislators for the delisting of grey wolves in the State of Oregon.</p>	<p>Requested Action:</p> <p>Review letter and authorize Chair to sign</p>
--	---

ATTACHMENTS : Proposed Letter

*****For Internal Use Only*****

Checkoffs:

() Dept. Heard (copy)
() Human Resources (copy)
(X) Legal (copy)
() (Other - List:)

To be notified of Meeting:

Needed at Meeting:

Scheduled for meeting on: August 13, 2025

Action taken:

Follow-up:

Board of Commissioners



216 S. E. 4th Street
Pendleton, OR 97801

Daniel N. Dorran
541-278-6201

John M. Shafer
541-278-6203

Celinda A. Timmons
541-278-6202

August 13, 2025

Federal Legislators

Dear Legislators:

Umatilla County joins other counties and local governments to request the United States Congress to take action to support fully delisting of grey wolves in the State of Oregon under the Endangered Species Act. This would include adoption of HR845, for the Secretary of the Interior to reissue the final rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife.

A portion of Umatilla County is federally delisted, while another portion is still under federal protection. This partial status makes it very hard to have a collaborative plan to manage, and makes it extremely difficult to follow the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and its phases when we do not have the whole state delisted.

The grey wolf population in this county as well as the State of Oregon has steadily grown over the past decade, and the number of packs and territories continues to expand. This population recovery, while a testament to successful conservation efforts, has come with serious and unintended consequences for Oregon's farming and ranching communities.

As leaders from across Oregon we are deeply concerned with the well-being and future of our agricultural industries, we want to highlight the real and growing burden that unchecked wolf populations are placing on livestock producers in particular. Wolf depredations are not isolated incidents—they result in the direct loss of cattle, sheep, and other livestock, as well as indirect losses from stress-induced weight loss, reduced reproduction, and the need for costly deterrent measures. These losses severely impact the economic livelihood of family-run ranches and farms that are already operating under tight margins.

Please takes action to support legislation or administrative actions that will delist grey wolves in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Celinda A. Timmons
Chair, Board of Commissioners

CAT:bt