

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce:

As you begin crafting the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we request that you include funding for the Wolf-Livestock Loss Demonstration Program.

We support this program because it provides ranchers a small fraction of the value that they lose when their livestock is killed by a wolf. Since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operates the gray wolf and other wolf recovery programs, the federal government bears responsibility for insuring ranchers and livestock producers are compensated for these attacks.

Authorized by Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, the Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program provides \$1,000,000 in grants to 10 states to assist livestock producers in undertaking non-lethal steps to prevent livestock predation by wolves and to compensate producers for livestock killed by wolves.

Wolf depredations are having a catastrophic effect on the communities we represent. For example, there were 127 confirmed livestock kills due to the Mexican Gray Wolf in New Mexico and Arizona in 2021. Not only did these losses have a devastating effect on livestock producers, they also had a large impact on local communities as a whole, given that in the areas these depredations are occurring cattle ranching operations are the main economic driver.

Livestock is the backbone of American agriculture, with many states and rural communities relying upon it for jobs and economic prosperity. Cattle production nationwide alone was valued at over \$65 billion dollars in 2021 and was responsible for more than \$8 billion in exports. This worthwhile program gives livestock producers some assurance that their economic viability will not be entirely threatened by wolf depredation of their property.

Accordingly, we ask that you include the resources for this important program in the FY 2023 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Committee Act and allow any state where significant wolf depredation occurs to be eligible for the program.

We thank you for your consideration of this request and your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,



Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



Matt Rosendale
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