



The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources and quality of life.

December 27, 2019

The Honorable John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senate
307 Dirkesen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) is pleased to review and write in support of U.S. Senate Bill 3051, *To improve protections for wildlife, and for other purposes*. More specifically, Title I – Wildlife Enhancement, Disease, and Predation, Sections, 102. Losses of Livestock Due to Predation by Federally Protected Species and Section 103. Depredation Permits for Black Vultures and Common Ravens.

Wyoming livestock producers in recent years have expressed substantiated concern of depredation and damage to livestock due in part to the dramatic increase in populations of federally protected species of ravens, golden eagle, and bald eagle.

Livestock producers requesting assistance to address depredation must work closely with US Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services Division (Wildlife Services) and US Fish and Wildlife Service to either lethally or non-lethally remove the species causing the damage. Section 103 allows the issuance of depredation permits to livestock producers requesting the removal of black vultures or common ravens. The issuance of these permits not only addresses depredation of livestock, but also frees federal agency personnel to address other issues across the state.

A recent draft report obtained from Wyoming Wildlife Services indicated the lethal removal of common ravens, many of which livestock producers could potentially have the ability to remove themselves if issued the depredation permit.

- 2017: 1023 Common Ravens lethally removed
- 2018: 2079 Common Ravens lethally removed
- 2019: 1713 Common Ravens lethally removed

Section 102 is another crucial component of the bill to financially assist livestock producers experiencing depredation from federally protected species, including but not limited to bald and golden eagles. Recent reports from livestock producers do indicate livestock losses from these species, some of which Wildlife Services were contacted.

- 2019: 2 Golden Eagles were non-lethally dispersed

In conclusion, Senate Bill 3051 is a positive shift to address livestock depredation and provides additional tools and compensation to the negative impacts federally listed and protected species

Equal Opportunity in Employment and Services

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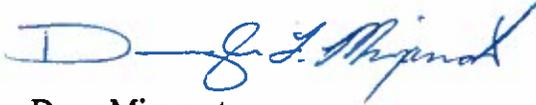
Senate Bill 3051

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can have on our agriculture industry. We look forward to staying informed on the progress and future implementation of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Miyamoto". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

Doug Miyamoto

Director

DM/jw

CC: Governor's Policy Office
Wyoming Board of Agriculture
Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
Wyoming State Grazing Board
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wyoming County Commissioners Association
Public Lands Council