



**OREGON  
WILD**

Formerly Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC)

[www.oregonwild.org](http://www.oregonwild.org)

Congressman Peter DeFazio  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2134 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

August 6, 2012

Representative DeFazio,

On behalf of Oregon Wild and our 10,000-plus members and supporters around the state, thank you for being an original co-sponsor of the *Transparency for Lethal Control Act of 2012*.

Oregonians take pride in our conservation ethic and value native wildlife. For the last thirty-eight years, Oregon Wild has stood up for those values by protecting and restoring Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters as an enduring legacy for future generations. We advocate for healthy populations of all native wildlife from elk and salmon to songbirds and wolves. Many native species face threats from overharvest, poachers, and antiquated attitudes towards wildlife that require constant vigilance. In addition to our direct efforts to protect and restore native wildlife populations, we have worked to protect their habitat from grave and growing threats like climate change, irresponsible logging, habitat loss, and reckless development that also threaten our quality and way of life.

Unfortunately native wildlife – and domestic animals – also face threats from our own government in the form of Wildlife Services. Formerly known as Animal Damage Control, the federal agency was created in World War I in an effort to increase beef production and still uses tax dollars to purposely kill wolves, coyotes, beavers, ducks and other wildlife on public lands at the request of special interests including the already heavily subsidized livestock industry.

Given the serious nature of the decision to kill wildlife for any reason, it's important that such actions be done in a defensible and transparent manner. Sadly, the USDA agency has avoided public scrutiny and made public oversight of its actions nearly impossible. The *Transparency for Lethal Control Act* represents an important and common-sense step towards rectifying that.

Here in Oregon, Wildlife Services has created unnecessary conflict and undermined state officials while also garnering recent headlines for unapologetically – if accidentally – killing domestic pets. Though the agency is in dire need of even greater reform, we commend you for standing with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to champion legislation that would finally shed a light on the actions of this rogue agency and allow public oversight.

Especially while Congress continues to consider irresponsible proposals that threaten to irreparably harm our natural heritage, we appreciate your stand for wildlife and look forward to working constructively with you on keeping Oregon a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Sean Stevens  
Executive Director  
Oregon Wild

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