

AGENDA ITEM FOR ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING ( ) Discussion only  
( X ) Action

FROM (DEPT/ DIVISION): County Counsel

SUBJECT: Sheep Industry Support Letter

<p>Background:</p> <p>The Board has been requested to provide a letter of support for the local sheep industry, to be sent to the federal legislative delegation. A draft letter is before the Board for review and approval.</p>	<p>Requested Action:</p> <p>Approve letter and authorize the Chair to sign</p>
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ATTACHMENTS: Draft Letter

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

Checkoffs:

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

To be notified of Meeting:

Needed at Meeting:

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Scheduled for meeting on: December 6, 2023

Action taken:

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Follow-up:

## Board of Commissioners



216 S. E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Pendleton, OR 97801

Daniel N. Dorran  
541-278-6201

John M. Shafer  
541-278-6203

Celinda A. Timmons  
541-278-6202

December , 2023

Federal Legislators

Dear Legislators:

Umatilla County joins other counties and local governments to request the United States Congress to use all available resources to provide immediate and subsequent lasting relief to America's full-time sheep producers. Another one of our agricultural industries is under a serious threat. One means to assist this industry is to implement a price support system paid directly to the producer—to keep them in business—and to commission a study to determine a more long-term program to insure a domestic supply.

Oregon ranks in the top 10 sheep producing states. This industry provides benefits from eliminating crop residue in the Willamette Valley, to the reduction of forage fuel in the timbered areas of Eastern Oregon. Sheep also are beneficial in maintaining land set aside for solar and wind energy production. Sheep also provide a domestic supply of nutritious food and a comfortable natural fiber. As the home for the historic Pendleton Woolen Mills, the sheep industry has been part of the base of Umatilla County for over a hundred years, and plays an important role in the economics of this county and region.

There are only five major lamb processors left in the United States, limiting domestic competition for the livestock producer. This is further compounded when imports from Australia can take advantage of the strength of the dollar and lower production costs to provide a cheaper product. If the sheep producer is to survive, assistance must be provided at every level of government.

Please takes action to provide relief to this beleaguered industry by a price support system and study to insure the continued history of this important segment of our community.

Sincerely,

Daniel N. Dorran  
Chair, Board of Commissioners

DND:bt