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LD 716

I apologize for any redundancy, since I submitted testimony hurriedly earlier when I was trying to get it in before 1230. I was planning to be there today but was unable to make it. Here I am including a more thorough version of my testimony including information I left out the first time.

I operate a farm in Northport, where I raise sheep and chickens and milk jersey cow. I also grow apple trees and work in the woods completing NRCS forestry contracts to improve my 100 acres of woodland.

I'm grateful for the local pack of coyotes that keep the deer on my farm on the move on my farm. When I am working in the woods, I do not see any seedlings surviving from the hardwood species that make up the forest canopy. The deer are getting them all. I also have had to give up on raising goats, in part because of the deer-carried meningeal worms they were getting.

While I don't expect the coyotes to control the deer population here, I imagine the deer would do even more damage without some predator keeping them on guard.

If you saw my other testimony I submitted, no need to read further, though I'll explain it in a little more detail here. What I explained was that the local coyote pack completely keep foxes and racoons away from my chickens. I have a couple of livestock guardian dog puppies neither of whom I yet trust to be unattended with my chickens, and they would be unable to protect my chickens from foxes or racoons. The coyotes have never taken one of my animals.