



RE: Recommendation For Endorsement Of Sheriff Bob Songer

Date: July 6, 2022

To: WSFB Political Action Committee (PAC)

Dear Committee members,

This letter is from the Yakima/Klickitat County Farm Bureau (Y/KCFB). Y/KCFB is a grass roots organization with 2700 members consisting of farmers and ranchers with operations both large and small as well as other folks with interest in agriculture affairs in Yakima and Klickitat Counties.

The Y/KCFB strongly supports the re-election of Klickitat County Sheriff Bob Songer. We find him a strong advocate for law and order in his county. The Washington State Grange chose him for Law Officer of the Year recently.

Initially the Klickitat Sheriff was planning on retiring this year but the candidate he endorsed and his wife are expecting a baby and that candidate chose a higher calling, that of fatherhood over running for Sheriff this cycle. Sheriff Bob Songer then decided to run for re-election in the vacuum that created.

The Y/KCFB has noted some consternation of our County Farm Bureau recommending candidates running within Klickitat County. We have a long standing partnership with Klickitat Farm Bureau members and the relationship is listed in our County FB by-laws. There are two FB members from Klickitat County on our Board and we value their contributions. One of them is one of our Board Vice Presidents. Further, our FB and the WSFB PAC has a long record of giving and accepting recommendations for candidates from Klickitat County and the State FB endorsing those candidates over the years. Point in fact, the current PAC just accepted our recommendation Lorraine Zoller and endorsed her for County Commissioner a few days ago.

The Y/KCBF also heard there was a concern from PAC member(s) about Sheriff Songer's Cougar Management Program. Senate bill 5613 (2022

session) sought to modify or prevent the Klickitat County Sheriff from addressing public and property safety issues.

Tom Davis, Government Relations Director for the WSFB testified against the bill, noting that it did not adequately address the needs of rural/agricultural communities and also the WDFW is not adequately staffed to provide a timely response to predator threats.

Sheriff Songer has met with our Y/KCFB board a number of times and fully briefed us about his predator management program. Unlike the hype and accusations thrown at the Sheriff, Bob Songer has shared his policy book covering the procedures his department follows in each and every predator call. He stated that upon creating the book, he met with WDFW to comment and offer suggestions. They had no complaints.

The Y/KCFB not only believes that the Klickitat County Sheriff has chosen the only reasonable solution to WDFW lack of action, but that Yakima County also should institute a similar program.

Finally, our FB is most disturbed by the PAC passing over our recommendation for this local race. It would be most inconsistent for the WSFB to oppose SSB 5613, thereby supporting Sheriff Songer's choice to address cat and bear issues directly on the one hand and then for the PAC to reject our recommendation and not endorse the good Sheriff on the other. In checking with senior FB members they could not ever recall such treatment and in fact after reviewing the PACs by- laws, those specifically direct endorsement by the PAC for local races unless there is a very compelling reason against it.

Our FB respects an LEO who consistently speaks the truth, without apology and looks out for his constituent's best interest. The Yakima/Klickitat County Farm Bureau unequivocally and in the strongest terms recommends once again: Sheriff Bob Songer for Klickitat County.

Thank you,

Mark Herke

President, Yakima/Klickitat County Farm Bureau