

Dear Mr. Gallagher,

Would you please pass this e-mail onto all of the members of Ag and NR committee:

I'd like to speak Against HB 2537. Oregon is still a huge undeveloped wild-land with small pockets of rural/suburban/urban interface.

My personal experience with black bears was 15+ years ago. We live in the suburban/rural interface of Eugene in the south hills. My daughter is a horse-girl and every morning, early before school, she would go to the barn to feed her two horses. A black bear was prowling around the yard, despite the best efforts of our dog to keep it away. (50lb dog versus 700lb black bear—a vet bill waiting to happen) The bear was emboldened, getting into the trash, so we secured it in an outbuilding. It was breaking into our horse's feed room, so we locked it down. It finally broke into the barn and dragged our chest freezer out into the paddock, turned it upside down, opened it, taking a bit into every piece of frozen beef, chicken and frozen pizza. When I called ODFW to ask what could be done to protect my children, pets and livestock as it was only a matter of time before someone got hurt, I was told nothing could be done, until this bear attacked my children. We'd left the bear alone to live his life—but he crossed into ours, a dangerously putting my children's lives at risk.

We're not talking about Yogi and Boo-Boo. These are wild, dangerous predators.

HB 2537 puts Oregonians, their children, their pets and the livestock at unnecessary risk—forcing them to either break a bad law to save themselves or stay huddled in their home. It is over-reach by people who will never need to live with its consequences.

PLEASE PROTECT OREGON'S CHILDREN, PETS AND LIVESTOCK! NO on HB 2537.

Thank you,
Cindy Land
Eugene OR