

Good Morning,

Please accept the below testimony for the hearings regarding HB 2182, HB 3188a.

HB 3188a will:

1. Open a Pandora box of wildlife poaching issues – an issue according to the front page of the Tuesday Statesman, is already out-of-control and underfunded. Almost a decade ago I worked with Steve Lang, of the Oregon State Police and learned from Steve and his stats that far too many of Oregon’s wildlife poaching kills exceed the legal limits AND COSTS THE TAX PAYER MILLIONS OF DOLLARS MORE EACH YEAR THAN PREDATOR ISSUES.

2. Creating a revenue from killing animals that invites illegal activity is NOT the ethics Oregonians want nor is building an economy on killing animals sustainable. The definition of "predatory animals" is broader than any in Oregon law and includes--in addition to the basic coyote, rodent, rabbit and birds--bears, cougars, wolves, furbearing animals, red fox, and bobcat. CLEARLY WE NEED A BETTER SCIENCE PLAN THAN A FREE-FOR-ALL-KILLING.

3. An apparent hodgepodge personal interest group of people lacking in science, land ethics, and questionable animal abuse issues are NOT the people to be managing our critical wildlife issues – especially during a time of climate change AND the unaddressed issue of a flawed, archaic and inaccurate cougar population model count and management plan. Our precious wolves do not need this kind of unskilled “management.” Our Apex predators are critical to save for they will help us transition climate change issues, however the cattle “industry” will make our climate issues far worse.

I am a rancher. And after 56 years of successful ranching, it chills me to say this, but it is time to take beef off the menu. We don’t have the water and the land is already overtaxed. We need the wild but back in Oregon. We need our Apex predators.

Which brings to light HB 2182. It states: “Appoints the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) to develop a possible predator management plan for the entire state.” A “possible” plan?? Which predators? Will Dr. Wielgus, the world-famous biologist who dissected ODFW’s flawed cougar management plan and told our Government to “Go back to the drawing board and start over” because it is junk science; be on the planning committee? Is there a planning committee?? This bill lacks valuable data and direction and science and must not happen unless Dr. Wielgus, Dr. William Ripple and Dr. Beschta are gainfully contributing and sitting as part of this committee.

We voted twice to not kill Oregon’s cougar with hounds. Why should those votes be usurped with these 2 bad bills?? Oregonians do not support the animal abuse and the questionable ethics HB 2182 and HB 3188a are riddled with.

Please vote no on HB 2182 and HB 3188a. Oregon can do better than these bills.

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