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**To:** [Exhibits\\_HNR](#)  
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**Subject:** Support SB 580 - Prohibiting use of M-44 cyanide devices to control wildlife  
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Dear Chairman Witt and Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources:

I strongly urge you to support SB 580, legislation to prohibit the use of M-44 cyanide devices to control wildlife.

M-44 cyanide devices are extremely dangerous. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued 26 use restrictions limiting the ways, reasons, and places that M-44s may be employed, and requiring anyone setting them to carry a cyanide antidote kit and to alert local medical professionals in case an accident occurs. These restrictions are difficult to enforce and often violated.

M-44 cyanide devices are indiscriminant. They kill non-target wildlife and pets and have caused serious adverse health effects in humans exposed either directly or via secondary contact while attempting to save their pet.

M-44 cyanide devices are inhumane. Cyanide is a systemic chemical asphyxiant. It causes an agonizing death as the body fights for oxygen. Horrifying accounts from people whose dogs have been killed by M-44s describe them gasping for breath, having violent convulsions, and moaning in pain – sometimes for hours.

M-44 cyanide devices are not an effective method for protecting livestock. They kill any coyote that tugs on the bait, whether that animal has ever bothered livestock or not. Indiscriminate killing of coyotes does NOT decrease livestock depredation. Using non-lethal methods to protect livestock coupled with the targeted killing of individual problem coyotes is much more effective.

Banning M-44 cyanide devices will make Oregon safer for people and their pets and stop one of the most inhumane, indiscriminate methods of killing native wildlife.

The M-44 cyanide device is one “tool” that is too dangerous to be in anybody’s “toolbox”!

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