



February 10, 2019

The Honorable Brad Witt
900 Court St. NE, H-374
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chairman Witt and members of the House Committee on Natural Resources:

The Sportsmen's Alliance, with members in all 50 states, is the leading national organization that fights detrimental legislation that seeks to diminish or destroy our American outdoor heritage. I am writing today on behalf of our Oregon members to request that this committee oppose House Bill 4075.

Like many states, Oregon is already struggling to control the rising population of coyotes. This legislation will undermine the efforts of Oregon's state wildlife experts to manage these prolific predators which kill livestock and pets, and most disturbing, also attacks on vulnerable people. Not only are coyotes devastating Oregon's agricultural industry, they pose serious threats to other wildlife, people and pets. In November of 2018, a 7-year-old girl was attacked and bitten in Southwest Portland and a couple of weeks before that in October, an 8-year-old girl was attacked in the same area.

According to the USDA 2018 State Agriculture Overview for Oregon, the state has over a \$4 billion-dollar agricultural industry. A 2015 USDA report dealing strictly with cattle losses found: **"Coyotes accounted for the highest percentage of cattle loss due to predators in Oregon at (44.2%)"** [1] Also, another 2015 USDA report dealing strictly with nationwide sheep and lamb losses found that: **"Coyotes accounted for the highest percentage of sheep losses (54.3%) and coyotes accounted for the highest percentage of lamb losses at (63.7%) nationwide"**. [2]

Coyotes are so abundant in Oregon, there are no closed seasons or bag limits for them, and they can be legally hunted year-round. One of the reasons for this practice is because coyotes have a high intelligence and can adapt to a variety of habitats. Simply catching coyotes in one area and releasing them in another, will do nothing to help manage the population and reduce economic damages and attacks.

So at a time when the state struggles to control coyote numbers and protect public safety and livestock, this legislation would remove an effective method of management that costs no tax

payer dollars, even generating income for local economies. The Sportsmen's Alliance, on behalf of its Oregon members, asks you to oppose House Bill 4075. Protecting an industry that generates over \$4 billion dollars per year, and more importantly the safety of Oregonians, should be the top priority of the legislature.

Best personal regards,

Jacob M. Hupp
Associate Director of State Services
Sportsmen's Alliance

- 1 United States Department of Agriculture 2015 – "Cattle and Calves Death Loss in the United States Due to Predator and Nonpredator Causes, 2015"
- 2 United States Department of Agriculture 2015 – "Sheep and Lamb Predator and Nonpredator Death Loss in the United States, 2015"