

Submitter: David Ewing  
On Behalf Of: myself  
Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources  
Measure: HB4080

I urge you to oppose House Bill 4080. This bill would allow special government districts to raise money for killing wildlife only because the animals might damage private property. House Bill 4080 would not require recipients of the money to use or even consider using alternatives that don't require killing the animals. Moreover, the money raised would go to the federal "Wildlife Services" program, which is known for cruel and unnecessary killing of wildlife as its preferred method of dealing with human-wildlife conflicts. Oregon should focus instead on finding peaceful ways to co-exist with wildlife. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, Wildlife Services killed 201,606 animals in Oregon, including 210 bears, 2,147 coyotes and 92 mountain lions, using methods including neck and leg snares, cages and foothold traps, aerial gunning and paid hunters.

Legislators should not be approving programs to give Wildlife Services even more money to do even more killing, especially since the science increasingly shows all that killing doesn't work to reduce problems caused by wildlife and may even make them worse. Wildlife in general is already in steep decline due to habitat loss, climate change and programs like this. The sixth great extinction is already upon, bills like this just throw more gas on the fire. Stop the killing...