

Submitter: Jane Bicquette

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: HB4080

Dear House Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources

Please Oppose HB 4080.

It is beyond belief that Wild Life Services should be allowed to kill, without accountability, hundreds of thousands of Oregon wild life. The creation of these so-called "predator damage control districts" would endorse needless killing, in often a most cruel manner, of our natural resources, our precious and vulnerable wildlife. Non-lethal alternatives are available to land owners and ranchers, and should be thoroughly exhausted before our wild life is killed, and even then, allowance for some damage or livestock loss due to the presence of wildlife should be built in to any land owner's or rancher's business plans. With over 200,000 wild animals killed by Wildlife Services in the fiscal year 2020, I wonder how it can be justified that unaccountable killing should be allowed. It is clear through so much research that killing and breaking up family packs, herds, groups of wild animals, causes more human-wildlife conflicts. Furthermore, with climate change and wild fires and drought, these animals are already facing life-threatening challenges. We want our wildlife in Oregon and land owners and ranchers need to learn to co-exist with our wildlife. Or we risk being a state that has decimated our wolf and bear and cougar and elk (and many other species) populations. If we can save our wildlife and their habitat, we can help heal our environment so that there are wild spaces and wild beings for the next generation to know and protect and learn from and live in peace with.

Thank you.