

Submitter: Bala Seshasayee

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: HB4080

I write to voice my opposition to HB 4080 for the following reasons:

1. Peer-reviewed studies have shown that killing based population control does nothing to reduce human-wildlife conflict. After reviewing 141 studies of predator removal, the authors of this study, for example, have established that success is not achieved by predator removal but by better coexistence methods:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2018.05.003>

2. It could worsen predator encounters, as shown in this article:

<https://www.npr.org/2019/06/14/730056855/killing-coyotes-is-not-as-effective-as-once-thought-researchers-say>

Furthermore, the fact that a property is within a predator damage control district incentivizes the owner to be less inclined to adopt defensive methods such as robust fencing, since they are already paying for this service.

3. It is a step back in accountability, as it generates money for "wildlife services" with no requirements on their part to explore other methods to reducing encounters with predators, other than killing them.

This bill does NOT solve the problem it is setting out to solve, and in fact worsens the situation.

I request you to please vote against this bill.