

February 13, 2022

Chair Pam Marsh
Vice Chair Zach Hudson
Vice Chair David Brock Smith
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

RE: OPPOSE H.B. 4080

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Smith, and Committee Members:

For the last eighteen years, I have lived on 15 acres in Southern Oregon. We share this land with bears, foxes, raccoons, squirrels, cougars, bobcats, deer, muskrats, coyotes, otters, and other native wildlife. It is the major joy of living here.

H.B. 4080 would create wildlife killing zones where the USDA's Wildlife Services would have free reign to kill Oregon wildlife due to conflict with livestock, instead of prioritizing non-lethal methods for conflict resolution. In fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, Wildlife Services reported killing 201,606 animals in Oregon, including bears, coyotes, and mountain lions. Methods such as leg and neck snares, cages, foothold traps and aerial gunning were used. Scientific evidence shows that all killing doesn't reduce conflict but may increase it.

While acknowledging the need for farmers to protect their livestock, nonlethal deterrents should be prioritized in establishing any program to address conflicts with wildlife. The wildlife of Oregon is held in trust for all Oregonians. We must work to support treating wildlife humanely and with an eye toward fostering coexistence, not lethal conflicts.

Please vote NO on H.B. 4080.

Tamara Drake
Director of Research and Regulatory Policy
Center for Responsible Science