

February 13, 2022

Chairman Pam Marsh

Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Oregon House of Representatives

RE: HB 4080

Dear Chairman Marsh and Members of the Committee,

As a fourth generation rancher in Douglas County, I have personally experienced the emotional and economic strain that livestock depredation can have on an agricultural business. Over the years, we have utilized an number of tools to deter predators; both electric and conventional fencing, llamas and guard dogs. These are used in concert with trappers from Wildlife Services. By employing multiple tools, we have been able to keep predator losses to a manageable level.

When a pilot Predator Control District was formed in our area, we cheerfully joined to exhibit a little bit more control over our own destiny. By joining with other landowners in the district, we have been able to stabilize funding for this essential service. It is a prime example of a group of people coming together to take care of themselves, rather than looking for the government to do it for them. Much of the land base in our area is well suited to livestock production. Without some forms of deterrents and protections from predators in play, impacts to agriculture as an economic driver will be seen. With wolves now in our county, having the district in place to help all of us navigate through the management of this animal will be very important. I urge you to support HB 4080 to allow this district to continue.

I am grateful for this opportunity to provide testimony and thank you for your dedicated service to the State of Oregon. Your support of this bill would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Troy Michaels

Michaels Ranch