

Submitter: Charlie Waterman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: HB4080

First of all, this is a voluntary funding program only. Since starting in the industry, our operation has used non-lethal's to deter wildlife that kill our livestock. Please let me be clear, these non-lethal methods do not work on all predators and some predators. We see predator numbers increasing. In the old days, the numbers were fewer as well as different species have infiltrated our area whether due to agency relocation or the loss of habitat due to urban growth. As land managers, we provide all this habitat for the wildlife while the people in the cities have minimal conflicts due to the lack of habitat caused by housing and other development. If the people want all these predators, then they should take some responsibilities to provide food and habitat in their area. As for the government entity, Wildlife Services, it has been portrayed in very negative light. Who do you think answers the call when predators are stalking children. It is obvious there is a complete lack on knowledge of rural Oregon and no wonder we have the rural-urban divide. It is ridiculous a successful "voluntary funding only" bill (2017 HB 3188) can't get the sunset removed. I encourage you to listen to the people on the ground to find out the reality of predator management. Please support HB 4080.