

Submitter: Dan Keeley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB199

Hon. Committee Members:

Chair Golden and Members of the Committee, my name is Dan Keeley and my wife and I grow hazelnuts in Marion County's French Prairie region. I urge you to oppose SB 199 for the following reasons:

1. None of the animals defined in the ORS as predatory are or will be in any danger of extinction in the foreseeable future. These animals are problems because they multiply rapidly and adapt easily to conditions on our farms. Unfortunately, a some of them are cute, at least in Disney films.

2. Transferring regulation of control practices to the Department of Fish and Wildlife will inevitably increase regulations on controlling these animals, increase our costs and further reduce the competitiveness of our farms. Our farms are not a wilderness area, they are a theater of a war we cannot afford to lose.

3. Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is the appropriate agency to continue to oversee the management of predatory animals. There is certainly a place for these animals and no one is advocating exterminating them but Fish and Wildlife neither knows nor cares about agriculture's needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.

Dan Keeley