

Submitter: Irene Gilbert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB199

I object to SB 199 being heard Monday at 8:00 a.m. as it grants too much power to this Commission of lay citizens. I have been experiencing the results when too much power is given to an agency or commission. The Oregon Department of Energy is a poster child for the outcome. They use it, abuse it, expand and exploit it. You end up with a monster which decides that statutes, court decisions, rules of other agencies and even their own rules do not apply to them.

Giving this amount of power to a group of 7 governor appointees is the starting point of a downhill run that will end up in farmers and ranchers being hit again with damages to their livelihood and homeowners unable to protect their property or animals.

I have nothing against the Commission members. I don't know them, but did look at who they are, their qualifications and where they live.

Kathayoon Khalil's experience is limited to the Oregon Zoo and Seattle Aquarium. She is from Portland

Jill Zarnowitz runs a vinyard and wine business. Prev. employee of State Forestry. Experience in water policy, habitat and dam removal. Lives in Yamhill

Becky Hatfield-Hyd: Water issues in the Klamath Basin and Sage Grouse habitat Lives in Paisley (Lake County)

Dr. Leslie King Medical doctor. Interested in medicine and climate change. Lives in Portland

Mary Wahl: Watershed services and Toxic Cleanup. Langlois (Southern Oregon Coast)

Mark Spelbrind Retired Fisherman Siletz (Lincoln County, Oregon Coast)

Mark Segrant: 20 yrs. manager Tillamook State Forest. Lives in Sisters and represents Eastern Oregon.

(I live in Eastern Oregon. I do not know Mark Segrant, however, Tillamook and Sisters are NOT Eastern Oregon!. The Bend area is as much "The Valley" as any town in the western side of the state.)

What I see is a commission that is heavy on water experience, caged animals, and very little else that will make them qualified to make decisions regarding predators anywhere in the state other than perhaps the coast or Portland Salem and south to California. There is virtually no experience on the East side of the mountains, I also will mention that if Bend is as far as Eastern Oregon goes, it is no wonder that Eastern Oregon Counties want to join Idaho.

I do not believe that this Commission has the technical expertise or breadth of experience as a group regarding the delicate relationships between the habitat, animals and diversity of both that make for a healthy ecosystem. I do not want them interfering with my efforts to limit the number of starling, or tell me how many

squirrels i should have on my property before they are eating all the baby quail eggs. I previously lived on a farm and ranching operation. There was a period of time when I was not comfortable allowing children to play in the woods due to cougar sightings. In La Grande where I live now, all the deer seem to be in towns as it is much safer than dealing with cougar and wolves in the woods. Oregon does not need any more governor appointed "Commissions" who lack diversity in terms of knowledge, fail to provide representation from all areas of the state, and who are placed on commissions more due to politics than experience. I am sure these are all fine people, however, they have no business controlling and managing predators and this bill may very well grant them power to convince themselves that they have moved beyond unconscious incompetence regarding decisions that they would be granted the power to make.