

Submitter: Ronald hjort

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB199

Dear Senators, I live in Douglas County raising sheep and cattle. I have suffered considerable losses to predators. This past year I lost 40 lambs and 12 ewes to predation. I believe the present statute regarding predatory animals is well defined and should not be changed from an agricultural definition and placed under the ODFW. Presently they, the ODFW Commission, is not in position to represent Farmers and Ranchers nor do I see that as their mission. Having the ODFW Commission with authority over agricultural operations when it is nowhere in there mission is mistake. The ODFW and its Commission do not take into consideration the impacts of economics, health, and safety when making Fish and Wildlife decisions. I am of the opinion that this Bill, SB 199, is an attempt to achieve things that here to for (coyote contests) were not passed in past Legislative sessions. Think about it, changing this to ODFW Commission would make unelected persons and only four votes to change the way things have worked in the past. Placing this in the ODFW court would make things more difficult, costly and not in the best interest of those of us that have to deal with these issues daily. I trust you will see the wisdom of not changing anything and leave it stand as it is today. Thank you your time.

Sincerely

Ron Hjort