

**TESTIMONY ON S.B. 580,**  
**A bill to prohibit use of M-44 cyanide devices to kill wildlife**

**By Dr. Robert Wielgus, Ph.D.**

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**Statement on use of M-44 “cyanide bombs” for predator control in Oregon:**

The use of M-44 cyanide landmines for predator control in Oregon is dangerous to non-target species (humans, dogs, and numerous non-target predators such as foxes, badgers, bobcats, eagles, etc). Furthermore, it is inhumane for the target species, to have poison blown into their mouths, resulting in agonizing deaths. Finally, widespread predator control, such as poisoning is not effective in reducing predation on livestock and game species.

I quote USDA Wildlife Services Scientist John A. Shivik in his book: The predator paradox, ending the war with wolves, bears, cougars, and coyotes, Beacon Press, “the cost of broad predator control did not provide a return on investment in the form of more deer. No actual increase in deer populations occurs”. “Coyote control preferentially removed the “good” coyotes, but left the repeat offenders” in livestock depredations. Basically, killing resident predators with poisons such as M-44s, simply results in an influx of even more new predators—to quickly take their place, and the new predators are often more likely to prey on livestock.

This is the 21<sup>st</sup> century, not the 1800 or 1900s, when widespread use of poisons to eliminate predators was considered ok. It is beyond time to remove these archaic, barbaric, and ineffective practices from Oregon.

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