



Bill Harvey

Commission Chair

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February 11, 2020

Dear Committee,

Baker County opposes the passage of HB 4075.

Every year ag producers in the County spend thousands of dollars reducing coyote numbers through aerial and on-the-ground actions. Without the additional reduction provided through local contests, the amount of money needed to control coyotes is going to increase.

Coyotes harass, kill, and eat our livestock, sage grouse, other small mammals, birds, and pets. Coyotes are not being killed 'just because', but to primarily protect our agricultural businesses from loss. However, anytime wildlife numbers, especially predators, grow out of control it affects all of our interests; agriculture through direct livestock loss, other wildlife through competition for food sources and predation, pets through the transmission of disease and predation, and people through disease transmission and negative interaction.

This 'feel good' measure is just another control that urban Oregon is trying to implement on rural Oregon on a subject that they do not understand. Quite simply, if you don't like coyote contests, don't attend – but don't tell us what we can, and can't do protect ourselves, our livestock, our ESA species, our pets, and citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Harvey", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Harvey, Chair

Baker County Commission