

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Board of Commissioners Office



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February 8, 2021

Re: Opposition to HB 2728

Dear Chairman Witt and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

Coyotes have few natural predators yet they prey on a myriad of wild and domestic animals. Livestock producers throughout Oregon suffer constant loss of stock due to coyote kills and mutilation. There are limited tools remaining available to protect livestock from this cunning predator. Over the years farmers and ranchers have relied heavily on the services of USDA APHIS Wildlife Services to eliminate problem coyotes. However, funding for these services has diminished over the years and most counties in Oregon do not have this tool available. The burden of protecting their livestock and their livelihood falls primarily on the individual producer. Concurrently, over the years many of the tools to control coyotes have been made illegal leaving a limited toolkit to rely on. Unless adequate state and federal funding is provided for professional USDA APHIS personnel to adequately control the coyote population and minimize the predation of livestock then other means of control need to be found. A hunting event such as this is a creative method to employ to address a growing problem for livestock producers.

The issue addressed by HB 2728 should be a local issue. Oregon is a diverse state with diverse needs. We urge you to oppose HB 2728.

Sincerely,


Margaret C. Magruder
Chair