

Submitter: Mary Anne Ericson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: HB4080

I strongly oppose HB 4080, which would allow "predator damage control districts" to collect money for spending on "predator control." Wildlife Services, which would receive funding through this program, uses killing (by a whole array of cruel methods) as its preferred method of solving conflicts with wildlife such as bears, coyotes, foxes, cougars, beavers, bobcats, etc. According to its own accounting, this agency killed over 200,000 wild animals in Oregon in a recent a one-year period.

We are in an extinction crisis, with populations of wild mammals dropping at an alarming rate due to habitat loss, hunting, environmental pollution, and other factors. Public funding to kill even more wild animals is terrible policy. Our predatory species are especially important in maintaining balanced ecosystems, yet they are the targets of HB 4080, which has no requirement that landowners use or even consider the more effective non-lethal alternatives to killing.

Oregon should be pursuing policies of coexistence with other species, for the sake of our own well being as well as theirs. Please vote NO on HB 4080.