

Submitter: Mary Brady

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: HB4080

Chair March and members of the committee. My name is Mary Brady and I farm with my husband Matthew in Douglas County. We have 78 sheep that we raise. We have paid into the Predator control district just in case we might have predator issues against our sheep. We hadn't had many issues with predators until last spring. One morning we found two dead lambs in the field. Not seeing much evidence of what had happened we communicated with the wildlife services trapper to let him know. The following morning we had at least three more lambs dead and finding where one had been pulled over a fence and then drug down to the creek and we spotted a black bear eating on the lamb it had killed. Because of Wildlife services they were able to obtain a damage tag to get rid of the bear that would continue to kill the lambs who knows how many more. But then a few weeks later after the lambs were sold we found two dead ewes (a female sheep) one pulled under the fence to her shoulders and eaten down to the shoulders. This was very discouraging to know there was yet another bear that took at least four ewes. One ewe escaped the bear attack and had to be given antibiotics for the wounds on her neck. We still have found three other carcasses of our sheep that had been killed last year. We were able to move our sheep to another location but it took a toll on our ability to try and save back lambs for the next year. It is hard to see your care of animals just disappear in an instance. I urge you to vote yes on HB 4080 to help us protect the lives of our sheep. Thank you for your time.