

Submitter: Sharon Waterman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: HB4080

As a 74 year old non-hunter and I support this program. Many like me do not have the abilities to "remove" predators that kill our livestock. We believe the best method is through a professional who has been trained. Years ago, a landowner not too far from us had three sheep for his girls 4-H projects. Like me he couldn't pull the trigger. Within a few days that cougar killed all his girls sheep and hauled them over the fence for dinner, one of which his girls watched in anguish. Their pets and 4-H projects gone forever. I'm sorry but the sector who are concerned about these animals should be providing habitat on their property and since many live in the cities, the cities should also provide habitat. They might consider a program to have landowners voluntarily have these trained specialist live-trap these predators and relocate them to the cities, Portland, Eugene, Salem, Bend, Medford, etc. However, there will be a cost and who is going to pay for that? The maligning of Wildlife Services is inappropriate. Whether or not you realize it, they remove diseased animals, they help to protect ESA species, as well as airport work which ensures airports are safe and lastly they are the ones that come when there is a public safety issue like a bear or cougar in your children's the school yard. I grew up not that far from Portland and I had no idea until I came to the ranch what an impact predation had on our animals that we love and our income. I have spent almost ten years on this issue in my County and it is essential the Predator District remain. With the program, only the targeted predators will be removed, and without it, you do not have that guarantee and nothing is more infuriating than to see an animal murdered by a predator and these predators are not humane killers. Support HB 4080!!