

February 12, 2021

House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

**RE: HB4080**

Chairman Marsh, Vice-chairmen Hudson and Smith, and committee members,

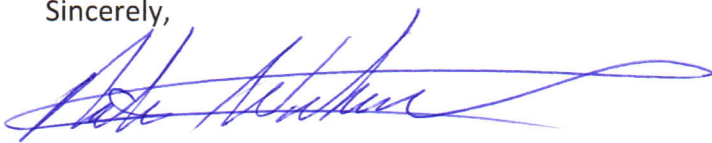
We operate a farm in Douglas County raising wine grapes, sheep, and timber. In the past 46 years our farm has experienced occasional depredation in our sheep herd from coyotes and cougars. We contribute to the habitat of many species of wildlife and are usually able to make accommodations to coexist. After nonlethal means are exhausted, there are circumstances that require outside assistance. In this instance we rely on the federal trappers to manage the losses in our livestock. HB4080 will allow this practice to successfully continue.

We marvel at the splendor and resilience of all animals, but in order to survive as a farm we simply cannot feed our sheep herd to the coyotes and cougars. There is nothing more heartbreaking than to venture out into the field to find lamb carcasses with only the milk consumed from their stomachs.


I hope you will consider the farmer's perspective and pass HB4080 out of your committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mike Wetherell



Shelley Wetherell  
577 Mode Road  
Umpqua, OR 97486