

Submitter: Kathleen Hadley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB199

Senator Golden and members of the Committee,

My name is Kathy Hadley and I own land and farm in Polk County, just west of Salem. I am writing to oppose SB 199, because I have significant concerns with predatory animal management decisions being made by the ODF&W Commission.

We deal with a range of predatory animals on our farm & land, especially larger mammals like elk, beavers & coyotes, but we also deal with depredation from geese, rodents, and others you wouldn't typically think of. In my experience, I have been disappointed with the responses, views & plans regarding wildlife predatory & depredation issues by Commission members. They are not the body that should be making plans regarding land management issues that come up with these animals.

I have seen Commission decisions that disregard their own agency's wildlife biologists more than once - basically caving to political pressures versus doing what's right. I also have been disappointed in the past with Commissioner's unwillingness to factor in economic losses to landowners & managers as part of the management plans with these species. It's not been a collaborative process. The disappointing part of that is landowners ARE the ones essentially providing these animals habitats, feed, etc - so we need to be able to have workable paths with managing particularly these predatory animals.

I worry that with Commission management, predatory animal management would become more costly, difficult, and in some cases impossible. Obviously managing these animals needs discussion, but this is not the path. Please oppose SB 199. Thank you for your time.