

Submitter: Janice Flegel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB199

Senator Golden and Committee Members,

My name is Janice Flegel and I farm with my family in Central Oregon. I ask you to oppose SB 199.

We have predatory animals that we deal with daily at times. From elk to eagles. Some predators we have the ability to defend our livestock and crops from and others we can't. The predators we can defend off our livestock and crops we want to continue to be able to. We have been able in the past to get fencing, hazing permits and flash shells from our local ODFW office to scare off elk from our hay stacks and alfalfa. We poison, trap and shoot sage rats and gophers and shoot coyotes. The losses our farm/ranch would incur from these predators would be great if the State Fish and Wildlife Commission were to establish requirements prohibiting any of these defenses.

In the past when we had not been able to control the sage rats they killed out wheat acres and reduced alfalfa by a 1 ton per acre. That is costly. I have also seen coyotes pulling at a calf as the cow was trying to give birth, killing the calf before it hit the ground. Not only was it disgusting and awful that was the lose of a calf that could have been raised and sold for \$700. Farmers and ranchers need to be able to defend their livestock and crops from predators.

There have been times the Fish and Wildlife Commission has hear testimony from their own experts and still established rules against the expert testimony. That is not right. I encourage you to oppose SB 199; farmers and ranchers need you to stand for us and our lively hoods.

Thank you.