

Submitter: George Hutchinson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2403

My family opposes HB 2403. 2043 would set forth local “predator damage districts” to fund the federal “Wildlife Services” to kill Oregon’s wildlife (i.e., wolves, bears, bobcats, foxes, cougars, beavers, coyotes, etc.) deemed a threat to private property, without having to use or consider non-lethal methods. For background, Wildlife Services is a highly controversial program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture that carries out lethal predator control on public and private lands throughout the U.S., including here in Oregon, using cruel killing methods that include poisoning, trapping, snaring, aerial gunning, gassing, and paid hunters. In 2023, for example, Wildlife Services killed 124,826 native animals in Oregon, including 237 bears, 2,664 coyotes, 114 mountain lions, and 80 red foxes, using methods including neck and leg snares, steel-jawed leghold traps, cage traps, and aerial gunning; and 55 coyote and red fox dens, where young pups are kept, were gassed. Nonlethal wildlife conflict reduction should always be prioritized, and we should not be increasing any funding that goes toward killing wildlife using inhumane methods.