

Submitter: Laurel Hines

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2403

Please oppose and do not pass this bill out of committee. Wildlife Services has a terrible reputation of focusing on cruel killing, which very often kills even non target wildlife, instead of helping land owners and others avoid conflicts with wildlife. I have first hand experience with this in the rural area where I live, near a wildlife refuge. Wildlife Services were asked by a nearby property owner to kill coyotes who were stalking feral cats the owner was feeding. Rather than instructing the land owner to stop putting out cat food, etc, Wildlife Services were seeking to shoot coyotes. This was a waste of taxpayer money, and threatened nearby pet dogs. Wildlife Services are known to also endanger pets by setting cruel traps for beaver, coyotes, and other wildlife. If Wildlife Services only helped people prevent wildlife conflicts that would be great, but that is not what they usually do. Please oppose this bill.