

Submitter: Marlene Pickens

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2403

To the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water, Please support HB 2403. This bill will provide a structured and collaborative approach for landowners and counties to address and manage the impacts of predatory animals on property effectively. WHY IT MATTERS: LCPDs are an important part of managing and mitigating conflicts between predators and agricultural, livestock, and wildlife interests. These districts are necessary for several key reasons:

1. Predators (coyotes, cougars, and wolves) pose threats to livestock, leading to financial losses
2. Some predator species can negatively impact populations of game animals, such as deer and elk, affecting ecosystem balance and hunting opportunities.
3. Certain predators, (cougars and bears) pose risks to public safety, particularly in rural and suburban areas. LCPDs assist in managing populations to reduce dangerous encounters.
4. While predators play an essential role in ecosystems, their populations must be managed in certain areas to prevent imbalances that could lead to declines in prey species or increased human-wildlife conflicts.
5. LCPDs ensure management practices follow state and federal guidelines, utilizing humane and science-based methods for population control, and deterrence.

i Support this bill.