

Submitter: Nikki Dennis

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2403

I am asking as an Oregonian that you please oppose House Bill 2403. This bill would allow special government districts to raise money for killing wildlife only because the animals might damage private property. House Bill 2403 would not require recipients of the money to use or even consider using alternatives that don't require killing the animals. Moreover, I understand the money raised would go to the federal "Wildlife Services" program, which is known for cruel and unnecessary killing of wildlife as its preferred method of dealing with human-wildlife conflicts.

This bill would allow the creation of predator damage control districts" to collect money from property owners for spending on "predator control." Targeted animals could include coyotes, cougars, bears, wolves, rabbits, beavers, and birds deemed destructive to agriculture. In my opinion, Oregon wildlife consistently gets the short end of the stick when it comes to funding, compassion, protection, habitat space, and the recognition that they are deserving of rights as well.

We are in the midst of a Sixth Mass Extinction and our failure as a species to learn to coexist with other species will come at our peril. Our biodiversity numbers are abysmal in many cases. Oregon should focus instead on finding peaceful ways to coexist with wildlife and recognize the important role wildlife plays when it comes to healthy and functioning ecosystems in Oregon that benefit us all.