COIN Legislative Session Worksheet for 2025

Bill Number and Title: SB 776 - Predator Control in Drought Areas

Brief Description of Bill:
SB 776 instructs the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to identify certain "drought" areas as wildlife management units or herd ranges and undertake predator control in the wildlife management units or herd ranges until certain criteria are met. Those criteria require the killing of unspecified predators as the primary method of increasing some big game species herds as much as 60% in areas having some of the worst habitat conditions due to many other factors affecting wildlife populations in addition to drought.

Recommended Position: COIN should OPPOSE this bill.

Name of Point Person who completed this form: Monica Tomosy

Email address if you are willing to be contacted with questions about this bill:
mtomosy@gmail.com

Last Updated:

1. Research topic – choose which category best fits your bill:

x Climate, Energy Environment	☐ Housing/Houselessness
☐ Campaign Finance Reform	☐ Immigration/Social Justice
☐ Healthcare/Gun Safety	☐ Education
☐ Transportation	☐ Economics
☐ Criminal Justice	☐ Gun Safety
☐ Other describe:	

2. The bill's Chief Sponsors: Bobby Levy, Todd Nash
Regular Sponsors: none

3. The bill's legislative opponents: unknown

4. What advocacy groups are supporting this bill and why are they supporting it? Provide contact information if available. unknown

5. What groups are opposing this bill and why are they opposing it? (maximum 200 words)
ONDA: There is no basis in ecological principles to justify this action.

ODFW is committed to implementing conservation measures as identified in Section 2 of SB776, through their species and habitat management plans, making SB776 redundant to current ongoing activities. Some of the species this bill references killing are in decline themselves. For example, mule deer in Central Oregon have seen a drop in total numbers by 50% over the last

20 years. ODFW identified expanding urban growth boundaries, development, increased human activities, wildfires, over-grazing by cattle, poaching, deer-vehicle collisions, and loss of winter and summer ranges, as causes of mule deer decline. Furthermore, once winter range is lost, population management objectives must be reduced as well to reflect the reduced carrying capacity for that particular mule deer herd. Hence to increase this herd by 60%, as SB776 requires, would be impossible, no matter how many predators were killed.

Long-term changing weather patterns of higher temperatures and less precipitation, as well as exploitive land use management practices, have altered the water and plant systems that wildlife depend on. Populations of big game species could increase if the State prioritized the minimization of impacts of exploitive actions.

SB 776 is redundant and would be ineffective in attempting to increase wildlife populations in defined drought areas. Reducing wildlife numbers would not restore the hydrologic systems of the desert. ODFW has the responsibility of managing our wildlife. The State must not relinquish their responsibility to manage wildlife, and the State must retain the responsibilities to sustain all endemic wildlife species in Oregon, including predators.

6. Reasons COIN should take a position on this bill. Choose all that apply:
xProgressive groups across the state care strongly about this.
☐This Bill protects or expands the rights of marginalized populations.
☐This bill helps change the structures of the democratic system to make it work better.
xThis issue is controlled by the state or states have a great deal of power in it.
☐Other

7. What is the likelihood this bill will pass?

8. List the relevant dates concerning the bill: No hearings or other action is currently scheduled.

9. Please list any specific advocacy action you would like COIN to help with, any media contacts that may be helpful or any other important information? COIN to oppose bill, track it, and testify/submit testimony if hearings held.