

Chairman Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Rick Moore and I appreciate the opportunity to provide proponent testimony of HB 553.

I am here to support this bill, which I believe will provide me the assurances needed to continue the necessary control of coyotes on our Family farm.

Cottage Hill Farm, established in 1816 in Southwest Harrison County is owned and operated by my father Stanley, my son Steven, and I. The farm consists of approximately 2000 acres, with +/- 600 ewes and +/- 95 head of cattle. We have been plagued with coyote predation since 1979. I estimate a loss of \$250,000.00 over the years. Typically we lose 40 – 45 lambs per year to coyotes. The lowest was 15 lambs one year and the highest was 250. 250 lambs at \$200.00 = \$50,000.00 in one year. We have tried many types of coyote control, including non-lethal methods such as: guardian dogs, donkeys, and llamas, sirens and strobe lights. By far, our most effective control is obtained through trapping and snaring. In addition, we hire a trapper, who works year round on our farm. All of these control methods are an added cost above and beyond the lamb death losses.

Through the years we have found that January – June is the most effective time frame to help lower the population. We believe population control is essential to our operation and HB 553 will enable us to continue to control coyotes to help ensure our livelihood.

Again, thank you Mr. Chairman, and members of this committee for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 553