

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

First and foremost I am in complete support of HB 553. I run a beef and sheep farming operation in Guernsey, Noble and Washington Counties where there is a large population of coyotes, which has caused numerous losses in livestock and caused the species to become anxious. I have experienced numerous animal losses, sometimes up to six per night, due to coyote attacks. The attacks are not only on the young, but adult animals as well. I have not only experienced death with in the herds from the coyotes, but damage and broken bones to the surviving animals due to the mother protecting its young.

I have worked with the USDA using the poisonous collars in targeting the predator, which was very effective, however the collars were never fully approved. I have also used every tactic that has been suggested by the wildlife authorities, such as llamas, hair bags, fencing, scare tactics, guard dogs and corralling animals at dark. ALL the suggestions were very time consuming, costly and had little results.

The only effective way of controlling the coyotes is by trapping, snaring and shooting. I need to be able to control the predator at any time, in any location, as the problems occur with the three techniques that are successful.

Profit margins are low to begin with and we, livestock producers, can not afford any more unnecessary losses. I am asking you to please support HB 553 so we may provide a healthy, safe and affordable food supply.

Respectfully,

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