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Board of Supervisors, County of Mendocino
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Re: Item 6a Terminate Cooperative Services Agreement (CSA) with USDA Wildlife Services

March 20, 2021

Dear Supervisors:

I am writing to ask you to support the termination of the CSA with USDA Wildlife Services and start working with **Mendocino County Non-Lethal Wildlife Damage Management Program with the Mendocino County Animal Care Services**.

I know you have heard the arguments that exterminating predators is not an effective strategy for protecting livestock, that it costs too much, disrupts predator/prey dynamics, and often doesn't kill the offending animal. Ranchers will give their arguments as to why predators must be abated in order to maintain their livelihoods. Ranchers may say that proactive measures are too expensive or that the research is on their side.

Given that, I urge you to vote YES for repairing the ecosystem of this county. Using non-lethal techniques to protect livestock is a compromise between ranchers' livelihoods and further damaging our natural world. You will be able to tell the ranching community that you take their plight seriously, while striving to repair the natural predator/prey balance.

There will always be ranchers who shoot offending coyotes. But by voting to **stop publicly sanctioned killing of coyotes, mountain lions and other predators as the go-to-solution creates a better balance between ranchers and wildlife**. There may be some economic consequences to ranchers, but in the larger picture, we will have more healthy biological systems when we learn to live with predators.

Sincerely,

S: //Marc Komer//