

Marc Komer  
17400 Shafer Ranch Rd.  
Willits, CA 95490

Board of Supervisors, County of Mendocino  
501 Low Gap Rd.  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Item 5e Discussion and Possible Action Including Approval of Retroactive CSA...

August 14, 2021

Dear Supervisors:

I am writing to ask you to support the termination of the CSA with USDA Wildlife Services and approve a Retroactive Cooperative Service Agreement (CSA) with the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), and Wildlife Services (WS), in the Amount of \$189,556 to Provide a Work and Financial Plan for the Mendocino County Integrated Wildlife Damage Management Program, for the Period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

I know you have heard the arguments that exterminating predators is not an effective strategy for protecting livestock, that it is 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.

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 healthier biological systems.

**In conclusion, I don't want my taxpayer dollars to be used to kill coyotes and other predators for ranchers. I want the County to provide a non-lethal exclusion service and education to protect both property and wildlife.**

Sincerely,  
s: //Marc Komer//