



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

1312 Fairlane Rd, Suite 1
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Toll Free: 1-888-854-2000, ext. 8005

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Laura Richardson
1021 O Street, Suite 7340
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill 1305: Wildlife: Bears

Dear Senator Richardson,

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors writes in opposition to Senate Bill 1305, which proposes creating a pathway for the potential reintroduction of grizzly bears in California.

While the grizzly bear remains an enduring symbol of California's history, we have serious concerns about the practical realities of this proposal. Today's California is vastly different than it was a century ago. Our communities are more populated, land use patterns have changed significantly, and the systems responsible for wildlife management are already stretched thin addressing the species currently present.

Siskiyou County residents already coexist with apex predators including mountain lions, black bears, coyotes, and a rapidly expanding gray wolf population. Due to increasing predator pressure, ranchers in our region are experiencing substantial livestock losses, increased operational costs, and ongoing uncertainty. These economic pressures have far-reaching effects within our rural communities, and Siskiyou County cannot sustain the loss of another foundational industry. While the state offers financial reimbursement for confirmed depredations, these payments represent only a fraction of the true economic impact on local cattle producers. They do not account for stress on herds, weight loss, reduced breeding success, or the additional labor required to monitor and protect livestock. Additionally, in ranching communities, cattle are often located near homes and community areas, which draws predators closer to people and leads to public safety concerns.

These challenges are so significant that many rural counties in Northern California have issued local emergency proclamations highlighting the economic and public safety impacts of gray wolves. The idea of introducing another large apex predator into an already strained wildlife management system raises serious concerns, as rural counties like Siskiyou would experience a disproportionate share of the impacts, further challenging our agricultural community, public safety resources, and local economies. Advancing this proposal at a time when rural communities are already struggling to manage existing predator populations reflects a significant misunderstanding of and disregard for the very real challenges facing Northern California counties.

For these reasons, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors respectfully but strongly urges you to reconsider SB 1305 and instead focus on strengthening California's existing wildlife management framework and addressing the issues our communities are currently facing.

Jess Harris
District 1

Ed Valenzuela
District 2

Michael N. Kobseff
District 3

Nancy Ogren
District 4

Ray Haupt
District 5



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This letter was approved by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on March 3, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Sincerely,

Ray Haupt
Chair, Board of Supervisors

CC: Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors Shaw
Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Assemblywoman Heather Hadwick Senator
Megan Dahle
Rural County Representatives of California
Senator Akilah Weber Pierson