



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

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May 5, 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, as amended April 16, 2026, which proposes initiating a feasibility study and planning process for the potential reintroduction of grizzly bears in California.

While the amended bill no longer directly authorizes a roadmap for reintroduction, it still commits state time, funding, and agency capacity toward evaluating a proposal that does not reflect current needs in rural communities. At a time when California's wildlife management system is already under strain, directing limited resources toward a feasibility study for an additional apex predator represents a misallocation of funding and effort.

Siskiyou County residents already coexist with apex predators including mountain lions, black bears, coyotes, and a rapidly expanding gray wolf population. Family ranching operations in our region are suffering repeated livestock losses and escalating costs tied to persistent depredation. Ranchers are being forced to dedicate significant time and labor to monitoring herds, implementing deterrence measures, and responding to predator activity, often with limited effectiveness. These pressures are reducing herd performance, disrupting breeding cycles, and putting the long-term viability of family ranching operations at risk. Existing programs intended to address these impacts remain underfunded and insufficient. Compensation for confirmed depredations does not reflect the full extent of losses, nor does it address the ongoing costs associated with prevention, monitoring, and herd management.

Rather than allocating funding toward studying the feasibility of introducing another apex predator, the State should prioritize strengthening its ability to manage the species already present. Increased investment is needed for depredation prevention, compensation programs, wildlife management staffing, and tools that support coexistence in working landscapes. Without these improvements, rural communities will continue to carry a disproportionate share of the burden. Many rural counties in Northern California have already issued local emergency proclamations highlighting the economic and public safety impacts associated with expanding predator populations. Advancing a state-funded feasibility study under these conditions diverts attention and resources away from the immediate needs of communities that are already under significant strain.

For these reasons, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors respectfully urges you to reconsider SB 1305. State resources would be far more effectively used by addressing existing wildlife management challenges and providing meaningful support to the communities most affected.

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 May 5, 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