

## Raszka Shelley

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**From:** Raymond Gipson <raymond\_gipson@digitalpath.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 12:30 PM  
**To:** Raszka Shelley  
**Subject:** Use science on wolves decision

Dear Members of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee:

### Please kill HB3515.

I am a degreed wildlife mngt. and biology and have teaching credentials in environmental science. I have taught biology, environmental science and earth science for over 30 years and help with field studies in several instances plus visited many research projects throughout the West. I have been a member of The Wildlife Society for over 40 years and am currently a member of the Urban Wildlife Working group. I have backpacked through wolf country and many wild lands and back country in many areas of the west. I have never been afraid of any wild animals but used proper caution when in bear country and mountain lion areas but did not worry much, as I live on 16 acres in the far end of the norther Sierra Nevada mountains and have currently a female mountain lion that calls our property part of her range. She has never bothered any of our pets or animals of others in our development which has parcels all larger than ours. There have been other lions before this one and the people of the area have never been bothered by them. Wolf 07 came very near the area where we live at the south end of his wanderings and no one along the way or during his time in Calif. had any trouble with man or livestock. This irrational fear of wolves comes from deep rooted old European fears like from the story of Little Red Ridding Hood (which is meant to teach about strangers and not wolves) and have little to NO validity in truth or reality. In fact Europe is trying very hard to bring back its native wolf populations and great success has occurred in Poland and Spain in particular. I am also part Native American and have great respect for the wolf in Native cultures of America. We have had little problem with years of living with the wolf and he is our spirit guide and greatly respected for his family life and protection of his clan. In other words, I have a great deal of experience in the science area of the wolf and in the nature of human behavior concerning wolves in America. I would like to make sure the wolf is on the protected list and stays there as they are a great asset to the environment as shown by the data of the Yellowstone studies after introduction. Consider the science for a change and do not be swayed by the politics and money thrown at the issue. You are supposed to be scientists and not be swayed by uninformed public members who are reacting from fear old out of date tales and superstitions. Please kill this bill HB3515. Do not prostitute yourselves and allow your science to over run by this lack of knowledge in many ranchers who refuse to look at the relatively easy ways to stop any harassment of their livestock as they have done in Europe through Mongolia with special dogs, etc. Act as you should; intelligent and use science base facts to make your decision.

This bill would overturn the repeatedly affirmed desire of the majority of Oregonians to maintain full protections for Oregon's wolves until a healthy, genetically viable and self-sustaining population of this keystone species is well-established in our state.

Right now only 77 confirmed wolves occupy Oregon's 97,000 square miles, with only seven wolves known outside of NE Oregon. This is far from a recovered population.

HB3515 would remove wolf management from the professional hands of the ODFW and put it under the entirely unscientific hand of politicians and special interests, some of whom have displayed an inveterate hatred of this species.

It would undo years of work which has produced the Oregon Wolf Plan, which has set a national standard for enlightened, scientifically rational wolf management.

This Bill would set a precedent which could be applied to any endangered or threatened species and would entirely politicize what should be a scientific process.

Oregon is a state distinguished for reverence and protection of its natural heritage including diverse wildlife. This Bill would betray the environmental values cherished by the vast majority of Oregon voters.

For these reasons and more, I urge you to vote against this Bill.

Respectfully,

*Nature is a hard teacher. She gives the test first and the lesson after.*

Raymond Gipson

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