

## Raszka Shelley

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**From:** Sally Mackler <sally@predatordefense.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2015 11:20 PM  
**To:** Raszka Shelley  
**Subject:** Fwd: NO on HB2050, HB3524, HB3515, HB3140, HB3188

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please confirm you received the letter below and sent it onto the committee members, and that it is part of the record.

Thank you.

sally

Sally Mackler  
Carnivore Advocate  
[sally@predatordefense.org](mailto:sally@predatordefense.org)  
(541) 660-7771 mobile  
(541) 937-4261 office

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Sally Mackler <[sally@predatordefense.org](mailto:sally@predatordefense.org)>  
**Date:** April 13, 2015 at 11:14:48 PM PDT  
**Subject:** **NO on HB2050, HB3524, HB3515, HB3140, HB3188**  
**To:** Raszka Shelley <[shelley.raszka@state.or.us](mailto:shelley.raszka@state.or.us)>

Dear Chair Witt and Committee Members,

Predator Defense asks that you vote NO on all of the bills in the subject line above.

**HB2050** allows counties to opt out of state law prohibiting hound hunting of cougars by trophy hunters. Cougar mortality has tripled in Oregon in the last 20 years because of liberalized hunting regulations, and the establishment of target zones where government agents indiscriminately remove (kill) all cougars they are able to locate. The most up-to-date published and peer-reviewed research from Washington State Carnivore Laboratory demonstrates that heavily hunted cougar populations cause social disruptions, leaving a preponderance of juvenile males in the population. This is the age class most frequently associated with

conflicts with people. This bill would further increase localized mortality around those counties, which puts the public and livestock living there at greater risk.

There is no reason to undercut state law. Hunters have never been more successful, complaints are diminishing, and Oregon statutes allow for the removal cougars involved in the occasional instance of damage or public safety. This bill sets a poor precedent by allowing counties to vote on what state laws they prefer to acknowledge and enforce, not to mention the challenge to state law enforcement agencies.

**HB3514** increases the ability to apply compensation as tax credit to livestock owners for losses due to wolves, and liberalizes the conditions for compensation. The bill language is vague, allowing compensation for “above normal losses” based on the findings of a peace officer that wolves were the probable cause of the losses. Peace officers are not trained to determine the causes of depredation. There is no definition of “above normal losses.” The bill also allows compensation credits even if wolves lose endangered species status. This bill sets a precedent that may result in all livestock losses becoming eligible for tax credits.

**HB3515** precludes wolves from being covered under the state endangered species act. The act establishes criteria that should apply to all species and not show prejudice against any species. There is no biological or scientific basis for removing a species from consideration for endangered species status.

**HB3140 and HB3188** set in motion the establishment of special predator control districts. There is a system in place for addressing predator control and at least a million state tax dollars funding it. There is no need for another layer of bureaucracy or more infrastructure. The bills do not provide any justification for expanding on what is currently in statute and regulation.

Please limit government spending and regulation and protect the integrity of state laws by voting NO on these bills.

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Carnivore Advocate  
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