

Raszka Shelley

From: Chris Lazarus <chrislazarus0505@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 11:22 PM
To: Raszka Shelley
Cc: Rep VegaPederson
Subject: Comment on House Bills 3515, 2050, 3140, 3188 and 3514 - Oppose them!

I want to express my strong opposition to all of these bills against wildlife. I am outraged that such bills would even be proposed in the state of Oregon.

HB 3515 -- This is a bill that is based on politics, with no regard for science and no understanding of the essential role of wolves in the ecosystem. Predators, including wolves, keep other species in check which otherwise overpopulate and degrade grasslands and forests and rivers.

HB 2050 -- This bill thumbs its nose at Oregon voters and at the science which shows that killing top predators increases conflicts.

HB 3140 -- The vast majority of Oregonians support protection of native predators. This bill - like the others - completely ignores the essential role of top, native predators in maintaining the delicate balance of ecosystems.

HB 3188 -- This bill ignores the fact that native predators are themselves natural resources to be protected from harm and are an essential part of Oregon's natural heritage. Science has demonstrated that the presence of predators actually improves natural resources such as forests and rivers.

HB 3514 -- This bill takes taxpayer dollars to quadruple the tax credit allowed for livestock owners for losses that are "probably" caused by wolves. Taxpayer money is FAR better spent instituting nonlethal tools and strategies to prevent conflicts between wolves and livestock. These nonlethal strategies have worked well in other states, such as Montana.

I love Oregon because most Oregonians value wilderness and wildlife that should be a heritage passed down to future generations of Oregonians. These 5 bills endanger that heritage solely for the benefit of a small number of people - which makes them unacceptable. I urge you to oppose them.

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