

Raszka Shelley

From: Joanie Beldin <joanibldn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 8:28 AM
To: Raszka Shelley
Subject: Anti-Wildlife House Bills 3515, 2050, 3140, 3188 and 3514

I am writing to oppose the following anti-predator bills:

HB3515 - Revisions to Oregon's ESA do not belong in the hands of politicians. This bill would set a dangerous precedent - what other inconvenient wild animal would also be denied the right to ESA protection? There is no scientific justification for this bill. Claims by the Cattlemen's Association are exaggerated. Wolves account for less than 1% of all their losses. Only two cows were killed by wolves last year. OR7 roamed for three years over 300 miles. This past year he had a pack to feed. We know from his GPS collar that he was not responsible for even one depredation, yet, without ESA protection, there are those who waiting for the chance to kill him and his pack. Hunters' claims of wolves wiping out elk and deer are equally unfounded as well as claims that wolves are nothing more than vicious vermin. This is a bill founded on wolf hate, exaggerated fears and misconceptions. This is no justification for it proceeding any further. All wildlife deserve the right to ESA protection when needed. The fate of our wildlife should never be decided in the halls of Congress.

HB 2050 - Oregon voters have made it clear that they do not want to allow dog hunting of cougars. This bill thumbs its nose at Oregon voters and at the science which shows that killing apex predators increases conflicts.

HB 3140 - This bill entirely disregards the known ecological benefits of predators as well as the vast majority of Oregonians who value native predators.

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.

HB 3514 - This bill is reprehensible on two counts: First, to qualify, the loss need only be deemed a "probable" wolf-caused loss, and determination can be made by a sheriff or deputy sheriff instead of by experts in evaluating causes of livestock deaths. and second, this bill nearly quadruples the monetary amount of tax credits that can be issued and is a wasteful use of taxpayer money that could be better spent instituting nonlethal tools and strategies to prevent conflicts between wolves and livestock.

This bill will result in exaggerated losses to wolves as. It will be to the rancher's economic benefit to make claims of wolf depredation. Again, with wolves accounting for less than 1% of the rancher's losses, there is no justification for this bill.

I ask that decisions on our wildlife predators be made based on the most current science and that the fate of our wildlife be removed from the hands of politicians. I ask that these bills be dropped.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Joan Beldin