

Raszka Shelley

From: Celia Russelle <c.russelle@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 11:56 AM
To: Raszka Shelley
Subject: Written Testimony Regarding HB 3515

Dear Chair Witt and the Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing to you today urging you to vote against HB3515.

Wolves are not a serious threat to the livestock industry. According to the USDA's 2010 statistics, wolves were only responsible for 0.2% of the nearly 4,000,000 cattle and calves killed in the US that year. That amounts to only 0.1% of the \$2.4 billion value of the deaths. Those same statistics show that non-predator causes as a whole accounted for 94.5% of deaths, or \$2.3 billion of the 2.4 billion total. Respiratory and digestive problems, various diseases, and injuries are killing the majority of cattle and calves, not wolf depredation.

Wolves are even less of a threat to humans. Wild wolves are shy and avoid contact with people as much as possible. Most instances of aggression come when they are provoked such as when they are cornered, injured, sick, or have grown accustomed to being fed by humans. Human injury from wild healthy wolves is very rare and only 2 human deaths are attributed to wolves in North America from 1900 until present day.

There are currently 77 wolves residing in Oregon. Considering the above information, there is no precedent for HB3515's statement that prohibiting Oregon's wolves from being protected as threatened or endangered is "necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety".

However, passing this bill would set a precedent for actions allowed to be taken against future threatened or endangered species. The purpose of the state endangered species statues/laws are to protect and recover imperiled species for ecological health as well as educational and scientific value. Permanently delisting a species with such low population numbers, likely leading to complete extinction in what was previously its native habitat, completely disregards the foundation and function of the laws already in place. If it's allowed in Oregon, other states could follow suit and numerous species could be lost to extinction.

The preservation and recovery of threatened and endangered species should be left to the scientific community, not to policy makers. Scientists are well educated regarding the vital role that species play in ecosystem health and are not motivated by trends in the current political or economic climate. I urge you once again to vote against HB3515.

Sincerely,

Celia Russelle