

Raszka Shelley

From: Nicholas Cohen <n.cohen@rochester.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 10:30 AM
To: Raszka Shelley
Subject: kill HB3515

Dear Members of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee:

I am writing to urge you to kill bill HB3515. 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,

Nick

Nicholas Cohen, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Microbiology & Immunology and of Psychiatry
University of Rochester Medical Center
Rochester, NY 14642