

Raszka Shelley

From: Angie Bahris <ang_bahris@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 4:51 PM
To: Raszka Shelley
Subject: Please kill HB3515

Dear Members of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee:

Please kill HB3515. I visit and vacation in Oregon quite frequently. I have, on more than one occasion, set out just in the hopes of catching a glimpse of a wild wolf. You have more than enough room for the wolves that you have, and plenty of room for more. 77 confirmed wolves for 97,000 square miles?!? Enough is enough, we must learn to share and live respectfully with others, and that must be the law of the land. 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. The people, who you are suppose to represent, want our wolves protected. Oregonians want wolves protected. All our wildlife is precious, this is our natural heritage. It must be respected and protected.

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. Very, very far. 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 a 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.

Sincerely,

Angie Bahris
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