

Raszka Shelley

From: Glenna Hayes <gahportland@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 9:56 AM
To: Raszka Shelley
Cc: Sen Burdick; Rep Williamson
Subject: House Bills 3515, 2050, 3140, 3188 and 3514

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to House Bills 3515, 2050, 3140, 3188 and 3514. I care deeply about Oregonians striving to coexist with wildlife. Science has shown us that our fear and hatred of predators is unfounded and harmful to the biodiversity we cherish in Oregon. Please do not pass these bills.

HB 3515 -- Declares an emergency and prohibits Oregon from ever protecting wolves under the state Endangered Species Act. This bill makes listing of wolves an entirely political decision, ignoring science.

HB 2050 -- Exempts counties from the state law which prohibits hound-hunting of cougars and allows counties to decide on their own to sic dogs on these magnificent cats. This bill thumbs its nose at Oregon voters and at the science which shows that killing apex predators increases conflicts.

HB 3140 -- Declares an emergency and establishes a task force to study whether local predator damage control districts would benefit rural areas of the state. This bill entirely disregards the known ecological benefits of predators as well as the vast majority of Oregonians who value native predators.

HB 3188 -- Directs the state Department of Agriculture and state Forestry Department to study whether to establish a procedure to set up predator control districts in the state to control harm to resource uses from predators. 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 -- Continues and greatly expands a tax credit that was supposed to sunset, which livestock owners can obtain for losses attributed to wolves. 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. 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.

Glenna Hayes

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