

## Raszka Shelley

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**From:** Skye Barendt <barendt@ohsu.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2015 10:10 AM  
**To:** Raszka Shelley  
**Cc:** Rep Barker  
**Subject:** Please vote NO on several bills today

Representative Jeff Barker,

As a constituent and Oregonian, I value native predators. The science is clear: top-tier predators are necessary for a healthy environment. Most of these (below) proposed bills are over-reaching—ignoring any science—and are clearly making important scientific and environmental decisions political. Apex predators are critical to our environment and the loss of these top-tier animals increases conflicts. For the overall health of our environment, we need to increase diversity—of plants and animals—and one way to do this is by (at least) maintaining our currently low levels of apex predators. Additionally, we need to stop allowing additional tax credits to livestock owners who claim livestock loss that they attribute to wolves. In particular, HB 3514 is weak because it allows the losses of livestock to be made by non-experts. That's just a wasteful use of our state monies and it increases our community's risk for fraud. We should spend our tax money instead on instituting nonlethal tools and strategies to prevent conflicts between wolves and livestock. As part of our natural and healthy environment, wolves and cougars are critical; and we should not let corporate interests overcome clear scientific evidence regarding the necessity of apex predators. Wolf-loss tax credits are supposed to sunset—as a constituent, I want them to indeed sunset. A healthy natural environment is important for all Oregonians—we need to focus on a scientific approach to keeping our environment as sustainable as possible and these five proposed bills are AGAINST this prospect.

Vote NO on HB3515

Vote NO on HB2050

Vote NO on HB3140

Vote NO on HB3188

Vote NO on HB3514

Sincerely,

Skye Barendt, PhD

Constituent in District 28, Oregon