

## Raszka Shelley

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**From:** Amy Whitworth <plan-it-earth@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2015 8:49 PM  
**To:** Raszka Shelley  
**Subject:** 5 house anti-predator bills: 3515, 2050, 3140, 3188, 3514

Public Comment for the Oregon House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

**House Bill 3515** would prohibit Oregon from *ever* protecting gray wolves under the state Endangered Species Act. At a time when public opinion (in rural areas of the state) has turned against predators, it would be irresponsible to pass a bill that would determine the fate over time for a species that was once endangered, and most certainly will be again once protections are eliminated. How can you determine now that any species will not ever deserve protections. No animal deserves to have humans turn their backs like this.

**House Bill 2050** would unfairly target cougars and other native predators while overlooking the critical role these species play in maintaining healthy ecosystems. The voters of Oregon have more than once expressed their distaste for baiting cougars and sending out attack dogs. Unsportsmanlike, inhumane, and a general disregard for science is what I am seeing. Shooting animals because you see them as a nuisance is an inappropriate response for civilized society. Turning the decision over to the counties where one or two individuals may have a warped sense of humanity is no way for the state of Oregon to operate.

**House Bill 3140** would create a task force for determining whether rural areas would benefit from a local predator control district. While the idea of a task force to study a problem is a reasonable idea, this irresponsible piece of legislature would have that task force comprised of people who see predators as a problem, and includes no scientists who can present the potential benefits of these predators to their local environment. I urge you to amend this bill or reject it.

**House Bill 3188** would attempt to determine whether predator control districts are needed by the very people that see predators as a “problem”, and are looking to protect their own interest and the resource they have a vested interest in. This self serving 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, and the science that determines predators to be beneficial to their local environments in many ways.

**House Bill 3514** would nearly quadruple 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. Let this wasteful tax credit sunset, and stop using wolves as a scapegoat for every livestock death on the range.

Thank you for considering my comments as you deliberate on these mean spirited and risky bills.

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