

MEASURE HB 3515
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SUBMITTED BY: *Laurel Hines*

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RE: HB 3514 and HB3515:

Dear Committee Members,

Please oppose these bills. The actual statistics show that these bills are not needed. Yes, the wolf population has increased, but livestock losses have actually gone down. If we upset the packs by killing off the wrong members (which hunters are likely to do), less experienced and more desperate pack members will have a significantly greater tendency to seek out easy prey like livestock.

The pack with the wiser Alpha leaders are needed to take down their normal prey and avoid becoming a problem for humans. Instead the wiser leader will target sick, weakened, or injured natural prey, keeping the ecosystem in balance and prey species healthier. The whole pack is needed to take down natural prey to feed the family.

Wolves are and should continue to be protected under the Endangered Species Act. Fewer than 80 wolves is far too few to remove them.

Livestock losses from wolves continues to be minuscule , far less than 1 percent. There is already compensation for ranchers for any possible loss from wolves. Yet there is no compensation for losses from weather or disease of livestock, which is their main cause of losses. There is no need for government to liberalize compensation.

These bills are clearly not needed, and are not based of factual/rational need, and instead are due to emotionally based hatred of wolves and irrational reasons not supported by actual facts.

Please do not pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,

Laurel Hines

