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Testimony of Humane Oregon on House Bill 4040 (2016)
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

February 4, 2016

Chair Witt, Vice Chairs Krieger and McLain, and members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Posewitz. I submit this written testimony on behalf Humane Oregon. I regret I am not able to attend the hearing in person.

Humane Oregon is a nonprofit organization formed in 2014 to help advocate for animals in Oregon's political process and elections. I am a board member and the administrator for Humane Oregon.

Humane Oregon opposes HB 4040 because it would make a decision about whether wolves should be listed as threatened or endangered based on politics instead of letting that decision be based on science, evidence and the relevant statutory criteria.

The gist of HB 4040 would be to set in stone the recent decision by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to remove wolves from Oregon's list of threatened and endangered species.

We will leave to others more qualified the arguments about whether the decision by the Commission was appropriate under the law and the facts. We oppose HB 4040 because it would treat wolves differently from other species in preventing review and re-evaluation of the decision by the Commission. Review and re-evaluation should be allowed because it will ensure that the decision was properly made and can be changed as circumstances change.

Oregon's endangered species laws express a general policy of protecting all native species from extinction. Wolves should not be treated differently simply because they inspire so much emotion.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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