



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

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P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501 • (541) 772-7313 • Fax (541) 772-0964
oregonhunters.org • oha@ccountry.net

WOLVES MUST STAY DELISTED SUPPORT FOR HB 4040

February 4, 2016

Paul Donheffner, OHA Board Member

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dear Chair Witt and Committee Members:

I'm Paul Donheffner, a member of the Oregon Hunters Association Board of Directors. I also serve as our Legislative Committee Chair. I live near Salem.

We have submitted written testimony from our Conservation Director, Jim Akenson, who was unable to attend today. You will recall that Jim testified before your committee on January 7th as part of an informational panel in support of delisting. In response to your request for additional information, Jim has submitted several research articles and studies that provide scientific support for the decision to delist. I hope you will take the opportunity to review this valuable information.

I would highlight from his testimony that "from a scientific perspective, Oregon is simply the leading edge of an expanding wolf population moving westward from the Rockies. As such, the state's wolf packs are ready to be delisted so the state wildlife management agency can keep moving towards Phase III and careful management of this species."

"Contrary to some claims, delisting does not remove protections for wolves in Oregon. Delisting will, however, allow the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife more options for management moving forward. Oregon developed an effective management plan with detailed criteria to recover wolves in this state, while also protecting other wildlife species and agriculture. Following through on the promises made to Oregon's agricultural community will also foster better tolerance of wolves and maintain the credibility of Oregon's Wolf Plan.

It's vital that we follow the direction of the wolf plan, which was developed with buy-in from many diverse stakeholders. The Oregon Hunters Association is in support of HB 4040 which ratifies the decision of the state Fish and Wildlife Commission to remove *Canis lupus* from the state endangered species list."