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RE: SB 1557 and HB 4040

I oppose this bill. Wolves in Oregon are still too few to be certain to claim they will not again need protections in Oregon as threatened or endangered. HB 4040 would override current law to lock in the flawed ODFW Commission's decision to remove them from Endangered status. This is wrong, and we must keep the decision about whether and when they might again become endangered open to scientific assessment and decision making.

Scrutiny by the courts is needed when issues involving endangered animals might be decided based on special interests, biased commissions, or biased biologists. It is wrong to make laws that do not allow issues to go before the courts to make sure that adequate and unbiased scientific information has been assessed in these matters.

Citizen's rights to take issues to court via organizations they support should not be curtailed.

This act declares an emergency; there is no emergency in ratifying the removal of wolves from the state list of endangered species. No humans have been or are at all likely to be harmed. The number of livestock taken by wolves is almost ridiculously small compared to the number of livestock in Oregon. The wolf plan still provides help for ranchers who lose livestock from wolves, even though in reality, dogs and coyotes kill far more livestock; illness and weather kill far, far more.

The bill claims it is needed for "the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety". There is no evidence at all for this, since wolves are no threat at all to the public/ human peace, health, or safety. Wolves do not attack humans, and are not a threat to humans in Oregon, especially at their still delicate numbers.

The just out February 2016 National Geographic Magazine has an article about a significant and troubling decline of wolves in Denali National Park. Previously they had a number of packs in the park with many breeding pairs. However in recent years, due to trapping and hunting around the park, far fewer are being seen by the worldwide travelers who go to Denali hoping to catch sight of them.

Far too many pregnant and breeding females in Denali, even collared female wolves, are being killed, often inadvertently as trappers and hunters target other wolves. So even where wolves have been plentiful, numbers can begin to drop suddenly. We must keep the option open of re-establishing wolves in our state as endangered if needed.

Please do not pass this bill.

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