

**From:** [Jennifer Hauge](#)  
**To:** [Reiley Beth](#)  
**Subject:** PROTECT OREGON'S REMAINING WOLVES - VOTE NO ON H.B. 4040  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016 10:17:07 AM

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Committee Administrator for Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Please see that my comments below are filed as public testimony on this matter. Thank you.

On Friday, the House passed through H.B. 4040, a bill that would support further removing important legal protections for Oregon's small wolf population. I submitted comments to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee along with lobbying my Representative, Brian Clem, to no avail.

As I researched this issue, I was deeply troubled by this obvious political end-around by a minority interest group to protect their personal profits over the public good of all Oregonians. The recent occupation at Malheur brings to mind the role and value of public lands, some of which are areas in which wolves and ranchers must co-exist. The wild animals that inhabit those lands are one aspect of the public domain and wolves' existence as an apex predator in the health of the ecosystem is something that impacts all citizens. When the natural world is out of balance, it affects we human animals as well. Thus, despite my residency in a suburban part of the state, I still care deeply about this issue. As a state legislator, you are charged with protecting the public good so that the interests on some don't outweigh the benefits of many.

While I don't agree with the Nov. OFWC decision to delist wolves, we have an agreed upon process and Wolf Management Plan to address these concerns. Making a state law to usurp these systems is a desperate attempt by a special interest group to protect their pockets instead of being subjected to the science and facts that we must really use to make prudent decisions about Oregon's wildlife, impacts of which affect all Oregonians.

Ranchers are concerned with their profits when wolves may kill one of their livestock before they have a chance to. Why can't we just pay ranchers for the one-off situations where this occurs? They'll be compensated as they would have been at market anyway and the wolves can co-exist naturally in an unnatural environment where humans graze farmed species in their backyard. I realize this is a debate for the Wolf Management Plan review process. However, that is precisely my point. There should be the opportunity for a debate based on science, facts, and good policy negotiation. To legislate that we cannot even have the discussion is flawed thinking and back door politics that is what everyday Americans are so disgusted by and will remember come election time.

Oregon wolf management, and all environmental issues, need to be based on science not political loopholes. Please vote NO on H.B. 4040. Thank you for your service to your constituents and the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hauge  
Salem, Oregon