

**Cascadia Wildlands ~ Center for Biological Diversity ~ Hells Canyon Preservation Council
Natural Resources Defense Council ~ Northeast Oregon Ecosystems ~ Oregon Wild
Predator Defense ~ Western Watersheds Project**

July 14, 2011

Governor Kitzhaber
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

Governor Kitzhaber,

On behalf of our eight organizations and thousands of members throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, we strongly urge you to veto HB3636.

This stealth bill seems to have been purposefully designed to fly under the radar of the Oregon public – the majority of whom strongly support wildlife conservation and oppose the killing of native species, particularly endangered species like Oregon gray wolves. The Oregon wildlife specifically called out and put at risk by this reckless legislation goes far beyond wolves and includes bears, cougars, and “fur bearing” species including beavers, bobcats, and otters.

HB3636 sends a tremendously dangerous message to hunters and specifically calls for the killing of one of the state’s most endangered, maligned, and least threatening species. In addition to the up to \$45,000 of taxpayer money that could be used to set up and administer the fund, this legislation uses the Oregon hunting tag system to disseminate hysterical anti-wildlife rhetoric at taxpayer expense.

While the legislation fails to clearly identify where this money would go, it is very likely that much of it would assist Wildlife Services. As you know, in recent years the actions of this wasteful federal agency have often been at odds with conservation of native wildlife in Northeast Oregon. That Oregon’s state government could be put in a position of collecting funds to funnel to a federal agency that in turn uses them to advocate against and undermine ODFW and Oregon’s Wolf Conservation Plan is ridiculous.

Governor Kitzhaber, time and time again Oregonians have spoken out in favor of wolf conservation, and the protection of other native wildlife species in our state. We urge you to veto the reckless HB3636 and sincerely hope such legislation won’t make it across your desk in the future.

Very Sincerely,



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