

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

May 18, 2005 Hearing Room C

9:00 A.M. Tapes 67 - 68

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Patti Smith, Chair

Rep. Brian Boquist, Vice-Chair

Rep. Arnie Roblan, Vice-Chair

Rep. Terry Beyer

Rep. Chuck Burley

Rep. Mac Sumner

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Mark Hass

STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator

Jania Zeeb, Committee Assistant

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:

Introduction of Committee Measures – Work Session

HB 3478 – Public Hearing

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
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TAPE 67, A

003 Chair P. Smith Calls the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and opens a work session on the introduction of committee measures.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEASURES – WORK SESSION

006 Rep. Roblan **MOTION: Moves LC 3618 BE INTRODUCED as a committee bill.**

VOTE: 6-0-1

EXCUSED: 1 - Hass

Chair P. Smith Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.

012 Chair P. Smith Closes the work session on the introduction of committee measures and opens a public hearing on HB 3478.

HB 3478 – PUBLIC HEARING

015 Patrick Brennan Committee Administrator. Summarizes HB 3478.

027 Rep. John Dallum House District 59. Submits prepared testimony for Dennis Reynolds, a Grant County judge (**EXHIBIT J**). States that there are already wolves in Grant County and HB 3478 would be a step in the right direction to help them control the wolves.

053 Warren Aney Oregon Chapter, the Wildlife Society. Submits and reads prepared testimony in support of HB 3478 (**EXHIBIT A**).

087 Aney Discusses the benefits of HB 3478.

119 Stephen Kafoury Oregon Chapter, the Wildlife Society.

123 Rep. Boquist Inquires if there are portions of HB 3478 that Mr. Aney does or does not support.

128 Aney Answers that the Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society hesitates to take a position. Comments on how the society views the bill.

144	Rep. Roblan	Comments on the coast and the listings of numbers of salmon for particular streams. Asks if the wolf that was brought to Idaho is the same wolf that was once indigenous to Oregon.
157	Aney	Answers that the organization has an informational paper on that issue and offers to provide the paper to the committee.
177	Rep. Burley	Refers to Mr. Aney's written testimony. Asks if the Wildlife Society would support downlisting the wolf if the wolf management plan was implemented and the legislation was enacted.
188	Aney	Answers that if the federal government downlisted the wolf then it would turn to the state to determine the status of the wolf within state boundaries. Discusses the process.
210	Rep. Burley	Asks if the Wildlife Society would support changing the status to threatened if the plan was implemented.
223	Aney	Answers that he will ask the organization and give Rep. Burley an answer.
240	Phil Hassinger	President, Union County Farm Bureau. Submits prepared testimony in support of HB 3478 with the changes outlined in the testimony (EXHIBIT B) .
323	Peggy Browne	President, Baker County Farm Bureau. Submits prepared testimony regarding HB 3478 (EXHIBIT C) .
346	Browne	Tells a story of a woman from Baker County and her experience with wolves.
373	Browne	Comments that they want to be on the same page as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), because of how the department affects farmers.
399	Browne	Comments on the problems of verifying what has killed an animal.
426	Rep. Sumner	Asks how losing a few animals financially impacts a ranch.
436	Browne	

Answers that it depends on the size of the herd. Remarks that on her ranch losing one animal seriously affects the operation, but on other ranches losing one animal would not have as big of an impact.

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- 025 Doug Breese Rancher, Prineville; President, Crook/Wheeler County Farm Bureau. Testifies in support of HB 3478.
- 093 Coleen MacLeod Commissioner, Union County. Submits and reads prepared testimony in opposition to HB 3478 (**EXHIBIT D**).
- 181 Ben Boswell Member, Wolf Advisory Committee. Submits prepared testimony regarding the wolf management plan (**EXHIBIT E**). States that he does not support the plan as written but he accepts it as a step forward. Remarks that the legislation being considered is not the same as what was called for in the plan.
- 264 Glen Stonebrink Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Submits prepared testimony in opposition to HB 3478 (**EXHIBIT F**). Comments on the wolf management plan.
- 330 Stonebrink Discusses the problems with the plan and the cost of implementation. Comments that the plan does not manage wolves, it manages ranchers. Discusses problems with HB 3478. Talks about what must happen in order for someone to take a wolf, or to scare a wolf off.

TAPE 67, B

- 043 Stonebrink Continues discussing the problems with take in HB 3478.
- 053 Rep. Sumner Asks for examples of what has happened in other states with wolves.
- 056 Stonebrink Discusses the conversations that he has had with people in Minnesota.
- 074 Rep. Greg Smith House District 57. Comments on the problem with the economy in eastern Oregon and the effect wolves will have. Remarks that ranching is one of the last surviving industries in eastern Oregon. Points out that ranchers are honest, hardworking people who do not want to be criminals, but are trying to maintain their business and take care of their families.

- 122 Rep. G. Smith Asks the committee to remember who this bill affects.
- 160 Rep. Boquist States that it is his understanding that HB 3478 is a product from the people that were involved with the Wolf Advisory Committee.
- 175 Rep. G. Smith Comments on a bill that he originally proposed. States that the attempt in HB 3478 was to sit down with the stakeholders to put a bill together that will work for those most directly involved in this issue and the citizens of Oregon.
- 182 Rep. Boquist Comments that during the last two public hearings the committee has heard from eight of the stakeholders that participated in the advisory committee, and not one of the groups agrees with HB 3478 as it is currently written.
- 204 Boswell Responds that the language in the draft bill was not the language in the plan.
- 236 Rep. Boquist Comments that seven or eight of the stakeholders have testified and none of them support the bill as written.
- 253 Mack Birkmaier Rancher, Wallowa County. Submits and reads prepared testimony in opposition to HB 3478 (**EXHIBIT G**).
- 326 Birkmaier Comments on the validity of the wolf management plan.
- 391 Birkmaier Testifies in opposition to HB 3478.

TAPE 68, B

- 006 Kevin Westfall Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Submits prepared testimony in opposition to HB 3478 (**EXHIBIT H**). Discusses the Wolf Advisory Committee and the problems with developing consensus. Urges the adoption of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association's -1 and -2 amendments.
- 038 Larry Jacobs President, Oregon Foundation for North American Wild Sheep. States that his organization acknowledges that wolves will inevitably come to Oregon. Discusses the importance of the state having a plan in place to manage the wolves.

089	Jay Ward	Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC). Submits prepared testimony in opposition to HB 3478 (EXHIBIT I). Discusses the problems the council has with the plan.
111	Ward	States that HB 3478 does not implement the plan, and weakens the protection to an extent that ONRC cannot support it. Talks about the changes resulting from the federal court decision.
140	Chair P. Smith	Asks if Mr. Ward supports the wolf conservation plan.
143	Ward	Answers that his organization supports the plan, but believes that HB 3478 does not implement the plan.
145	Chair P. Smith	Requests clarification whether it is the bill that the Natural Resources Council does not support.
147	Ward	Concurs.
148	Chair P. Smith	Asks how long it would take for Oregon to have 1,400 wolves, the number mentioned by Mr. Ward as an ideal wolf population.
150	Ward	Answers that the research is from a graduate student at Oregon State University, and explains the thesis.
159	Chair P. Smith	Closes the public hearing on HB 3478 and adjourns the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. **HB 3478, prepared testimony, Warren Aney, 2 pp**
- B. **HB 3478, prepared testimony, Phil Hassinger, 3 pp**
- C. **HB 3478, prepared testimony, Peggy Browne, 2 pp**
- D. **HB 3478, prepared testimony, Colleen MacLeod, 4 pp**
- E. **HB 3478, prepared testimony, Ben Boswell, 2 pp**
- F. **HB 3478, prepared testimony, Glen Stonebrink, 15 pp**
- G. **HB 3478, prepared testimony, Mack Birkmaier, 2 pp**
- H. **HB 3478, prepared testimony, Kevin Westfall, 3 pp**
- I. **HB 3478, prepared testimony, Jay Ward, 4 pp**
- J. **HB 3478, prepared testimony, Dennis Reynolds, 2 pp**