

Kootenay East MLA Bill Bennett BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBERAL PARTY

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Dear Mr. Bennett,

I am writing this to say that while I support your concern for declining mountain caribou, I am against your statements that wolves need to be managed to ensure their recovery.

Scientific evidence does not support predator control as an effective long-term recovery strategy. Caribou and wolves have co-evolved and removing them from the ecosystem would be detrimental to many other species, as wolves play an important role in maintaining biodiversity. Wolves are a keystone species. They also have intrinsic value. I want to let you know that I am totally against the killing of predators in the name of caribou recovery as long as snowmobiling, heli-skiing, mineral exploration, logging, and other human disturbances continue in critical caribou habitat.

Please become an advocate for protection of whole ecosystems. Ensure that land use planning designates larger protected areas with wildlife corridors connecting them where all animals are protected. Current land protection is small, fragmented and isolated. Regardless of how many predators are killed, habitat fragmentation has caused mountain caribou populations to become isolated. In order to save the caribou a large amount of land needs to be protected...truly protected (ie. not just voluntary closures....). Killing wolves is not the solution.

Please let me know what you will do to really help ensure the recovery of the South Purcell herd **WITHOUT** harming any other animals. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely _____

Address: _____
