

Submitter: Rodger Huffman
On Behalf Of: Oregon Cattle Producers
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB471

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

This program was created long ago as a tolerance mechanism for producers as the populations grew and knowing the wolves would cause severe direct and indirect loss to livestock production. This doesn't even recognize the significant emotional cost to passionate producers who truly care and protect their animals as best they can, it is REAL and unacceptable.

I was one of the staff at ODA assigned at the time of rule writing to make it work as best we could, within the adopted law. The first few years there was this option and a direct tax deduction option for loss claims. The tax deduction option sunsetted and from that time on, this program has been underfunded.

Due to this underfunding, and the wholly inadequate and biased confirmation process, producers have been let down. So much so that participation here in N. E. Oregon is dismal at best, many of us do not and will not call for state personnel to come evaluate potential losses, likely due to wolves. If the evaluation process worked fairly, and funding was adequate, the participation would be at least 5 fold and the numbers being asked for with this bill would even look small.

Please, in recognition for a significant increase in this under funded program, and therefore more tolerance potential for not endangered, chronic depredating wolves, vote for the passage of this bill.

Respectfully Submitted