

Submitter: Christina Witham

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and  
Water

Measure: HB2633

As Chair of the Baker County Wolf Depredation Compensation Committee, I am in support of this bill. Wolf depredation is a constant occurrence in our county despite non-lethal measures taken in both low and high risk areas.

To allow a producer to amend their application is only fair and makes sense. We have instances of cattle who had skin removed, exposing muscle and lived through the attack only to cost the producer for treatment of the animal (short term and long term) or to have the animal ultimately die from the wounds later on. In fact, I have a current photo, given to me yesterday, of an animal that suffered that type of injury up its hind legs and is suffering as the producer waits to see if they will have another confirmed kill to turn in for compensation.

Anything that we can do to make the process easier for our hardworking producers, we must consider and this bill does just that. We ask so much of our producers, all of the work that they have to perform in order to preserve their livestock against a predator that they did not want reintroduced, they continue to lose. The time spent after a loss or damage to livestock is costly in the way of labor spent in ODFW confirmations, submissions for compensation and carcass removal. If this bill works as an incentive to get the producers to participate in the compensation process, it is worth it.

I thank you for this bill and I appreciate you taking my testimony into consideration. Please move this bill forward for our producers.