

Submitter: Emily McIntire

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB2631

Chair Helm, Vice Chair Owens and Hartman, Members of the committee,

I would like to express to you today my support for HB 2631. Colleagues, it was only a short time ago that the state was tasked with eliminating wolves from this state, due to their destructive and dangerous activities to humans, livestock, and wild game. And now, we honor these predatory animals above that of our own livelihoods. My friends, I would ask for you to truly understand what is happening to our cattle, sheep, dogs, and other animals by these aggressive animals. Are you aware that when a wolf pack comes to kill livestock they chase the animals first, creating such a stressful environment that some of the animals will never be able to reach their full weight gain or reproduce again, and others will die simply from stress. If they aren't so lucky to die of a stress induced attack prior to being taken down, the animals will be downed and often will be eaten alive before they finally take their last breath. This death is inhumane, horrific, and so unnecessary.

Friends, farmers and ranches have and are invested in their livestock. The daily care, medical care, and personal investment that farmers and ranchers have in their livestock can often be akin to a family member. For this community to know that they have livestock, their responsibility, being killed and eaten alive and there is nothing they can do about this other than go bang a pan or yell at these predatory animals to protect their livestock, this not only incredibly stressful, but this is simply wrong. We should be able to protect our property. Not just from the theft, but from the stress, trauma, and horrific ends for some of these animals. We are also not even addressing the stress and trauma, the PTSD of the rest of the herd that were chased and traumatized prior to their stock mate being murdered. The cost of this is HIGH. This group of animals will never be the same, they won't gain the same weight, they won't reproduce the same, they will forever be changed due to this trauma.

This bill does, honestly, the bare minimum that we should be doing. To allow there to be a more fair compensation- this is just a stepping stone in my book, it is the very least we can do. We have truly said that the life of a wolf is more important the the life of another animal- what does this mean???

I ask you to support this bill- this will give the farmers and ranchers the bare minimum of reimbursement for the loss of cost for the singular animal and help offset none of the other cost of the stress of the herd. Please- support this bill- this is truly the least we could do- we should be doing more- like being allowed to protect our

property/families from these predatory animals.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill.

Blessings, Emily