

Submitter: Katie Williams
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB777

The ZX Ranch/Simplot Land & Livestock is located in Southeastern Oregon, we run a Cow/Calf operation in Lake, Klamath and Deschutes County where our operation has been affected significantly by wolves and their presence.

We support SB 0777.

The presence of wolves on public lands is valued by the American public, but wolves have an extremely high cost to the people that work the land and that are trying to make a living near them. Compensating livestock producers by addressing those costs is society's role and responsibility in supporting wolves on the public lands. Wolves have killed and or injured livestock, decreased weaning weights and conception rates, increased abortions, increased sickness in livestock and doubling producer's time and labor.

As producers we care deeply for our livestock and the wellbeing of them, we are committed to protecting them. SB 0777 would provide compensation payment at a ratio for confirmed or probable depredations only. Confirming the predator species responsible for livestock injury and/or death is challenging for many reasons, and many investigations cannot be determined due to a lack of evidence on the carcass. In areas with a high density of wolves, livestock can be killed and consumed completely, leaving insufficient evidence for the depredation investigation determination. There is not a producer who exists that would put their herd at risk in hopes that they can get enough confirmed depredations to be paid better for confirmed kills than for live calf come fall.

As producers we are trying to work together and figure out how to live with the environment/wildlife that live among us, we care about how we conserve the lands. Producers deserve to be compensated for their loss.