

Submitter: Barry Shullanberger
On Behalf Of: Lake County
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB777

I am writing to show my support for SB 777 and SB777-1 relating to the Oregon Wolf Depredation Bill. Lake County is one of 19 Counties that are eligible for wolf funding with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The population of wolves in Oregon and especially in Lake County has increased tremendously in the last year. Anywhere where there is timber, there are also wolves as many have migrated down from NE Oregon trying to lay claim to their territory. According to the Oregon Cattlemen's Association 2022 report, Lake County annually provides feed for over 86,000 head of cattle and calves during peak summer months which is the fourth highest number per county in the state. Wolves and livestock do not mix well together and often the livestock are on the losing end of a hungry wolf.

Currently Lake County is dealing with a problem wolf (OR 158) that has confirm killed 3 baby calves, 2 probable kills and several other missing calves. February is the beginning of prime calving season for cattle. This wolf has come in behind homes, into calving pens and has not shown that is not scared of humans.

The multiplier is important piece of this bill for a few reasons. We need to attract producers to this program and report death loss. If the depredation pay out is only at the current market value of the animal, the paperwork and time to process and receive payment distracts the producer from following through. The 5x multiplier gives incentive to report and submit depredation claims. Increasing the amount available for non-lethal actions towards livestock management techniques to discourage wolf activity around the herd is important. Wolf committees within Oregon counties need the dollars to spread out to multiple producers. Currently, money for non-lethal action does not go very far when you have a problem wolf.

I ask that you support SB777 and SB777-1 as proposed.

Thank you.