

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

I am a resident of eastern Oregon and I urge you to vote no on SB 777. Currently fair market value is paid when livestock are confirmed killed by wolves. To inflate that fair payment by 7X makes no sense. What other business gets a 7X payment when their business is faced with challenges? A 7X increase invites abuse in the system and many ranchers would likely opt out of proven-effective non-lethal coexistence methods that are provided FREE to the livestock industry but require work on the part of ranchers. And even when livestock are compensated for, wolves often are killed. If the current compensation plan isn't increasing tolerance, there is no reason to assume a 7X multiplier would. What is needed to decrease depredation is improved livestock management using techniques such increased range riders and having ranchers rekindle the herd mentality in their herds as some ranchers in Montana have done in dense wolf and grizzly country with large success.

In addition, wolves play a key role in restoring stream/riparian ecosystems and their absence from large areas in Oregon with suitable habitat is a loss for all Oregonians and the fish and wildlife that depend on healthy stream/riparian systems. The bill is a fiscally irresponsible use of taxpayer dollars. It would enrich only a few and we taxpayers would be footing the bill for poor livestock husbandry. Such approaches do not encourage excellence or stewardship and only serves to penalize those ranchers of quality who take their stewardship responsibilities seriously. Please vote no on this bill. Thank you.