

Letter of support of Oregon Bill SB-0777,

As a rancher in Northern Lake County, specifically Silver and Summer Lake, we have had multiple sightings and interactions with wolves all which have had a negative impact on our livestock. When there is a negative impact to our livestock, that directly affects our livelihood, as most producers rely on the livestock to make a living.

We have seen signs and the wolves themselves in our herds of cattle. Living in this part of Oregon, we have no way to protect our livestock. When we continue to have encounters with wolves in cattle, it puts them into a state of high stress which is never good for the livestock or the producer. For example we have suffered losses of livestock, poor breeding rates of the cattle, loss of weight on all animals affecting their body condition, and even added sickness. If we do catch a wolf in the act of harassing or killing an animal there is nothing we can do. We have to call the local ODFW agent, locally here is two hours away, and then they come and do their analysis to support or deny your claim of it was a wolf or not.

All these problems directly affect the producers income and their livestock, therefore the seven to one ratio is needed. Ranchers would use this money to replace the cattle that have been killed or have not been able to breed again. Although financial help does not bring back the dead calves or take away the stress, it can help in other ways such as replacing said animals.