

Submitter: Shauna McKain-Storey
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB777

I don't see the need for this bill, because Oregon already pays full market value for livestock confirmed killed or injured by wolves. SB 777 seeks to multiply those payments seven-fold, meaning public funds would be used to pay 7 times the fair market value of livestock predated by wolves! Why? Huge payouts like that would take away any incentive to use the proven-effective non-lethal coexistence tools available for free to the livestock industry and quickly deplete the fund meant to improve tolerance for wolves. And then ranchers and other livestock owners who are working to effectively employ coexistence tools could not access the funds, even if they experience indirect loss or missing livestock. This really seems like a rather transparent attempt to undermine a program crafted to shield livestock producers from potential economic harm while also protecting wolves, a keystone species in northwestern states whose decades-long absence - due to human attempts to exterminate them - has caused great damage to entire ecosystems. Please consider the health of our lands and wildlife as a whole rather than the narrow interests of those who seek the simple answer that predators like wolves are an enemy to be eradicated, and vote no on SB 777. Thank You.