

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

TO: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
FROM: Cierra Buer
DATE: February 23, 2025
RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB 777

SB 777 is a bill that makes no sense and is a waste of money. If that is not justification enough, it also does the opposite of what it should be doing by decreasing tolerance for wolves in their natural environment.

Through SB 777, producers are incentivized to claim more wolf kills and disincentivized to use nonlethal wolf deterrents. SB 777 will falsely raise wolf kill claims and further inflame the relationship between wolves and livestock producers. That is the opposite of what we should be doing here in Oregon. Wolves are here to stay and we should be doing everything possible to encourage peaceful coexistence. Wolves are important apex predators and we need to stop going to war with them. They provide balance in habitats and are essential for a healthy ecosystem.

SB 777 adds an outrageous multiplier to payments made to livestock owners for confirmed or probable wolf kills or losses. There are a lot of factors involved in cattle health and mortality. This bill leave a lot of room for interpretation to the benefit of producers. It is fiscally irresponsible and will use up the money set aside for the lost value of true wolf kills. The producers who are making an effort to decrease wolf kills will not have the motivation to prevent kills because it is easier to just take a huge payout for depredations.

SB 777 makes no sense and is irresponsible. I oppose this bill and I hope you will too.

Cierra Buer