

Submitter: Morgan Kromm
On Behalf Of: Oregon CattleWomen
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB777

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 777 on behalf of myself and the ranching families of Oregon, where the impacts of wolf depredation are deeply felt. As a Harney County cow/calf producer and the president of Oregon CattleWomen, I have seen firsthand the economic and emotional toll that current policies place on producers.

Oregon is home to vast, rugged landscapes where ranchers manage their herds across large areas of both private and public land. The presence of wolves has significantly increased our losses. Yet, the current compensation program fails to provide fair reimbursement for missing livestock, reduced production, and the increased costs of managing cattle in wolf-occupied areas.

Currently, ranchers are only compensated for confirmed or probable wolf depredations, but studies show that only 1 in 8 wolf-killed livestock are ever found. The reality is that missing livestock—animals that disappear without a trace—are very often wolf kills, yet compensation for these losses has been inconsistent, undervalued, or nonexistent. Additionally, ranchers face mounting costs due to:

- Reduced weaning weights in calves, leading to lower sale prices.
- Lower conception rates and delayed breeding, reducing herd productivity.
- Poor body condition in cows, making them more vulnerable through winter.
- Increased management costs, including non-lethal deterrents, additional labor, and more frequent herd checks.

These losses add up, making it financially unsustainable for many ranchers to continue operating. As a result, many producers have chosen not to participate in the compensation program due to distrust in the investigative process, the high costs of compliance, and the inadequate compensation for missing animals.

SB 777 offers a practical solution by eliminating the flawed missing livestock compensation process and instead implementing a multiplier payment system for confirmed and probable wolf kills. This approach more accurately reflects the true number of losses and ensures that ranchers receive fairer compensation for the economic damage caused by wolves.

Oregon's ranching industry contributes over \$1 billion annually to the state's economy, and policymakers must support the people who produce our food and steward our lands. I urge you to support SB 777 to create a more equitable and

effective compensation system for ranchers across Oregon.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Morgan Kromm