

Submitter: Dustin Simms  
On Behalf Of: SC Ranch LLC  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: SB777

Dear Committee,

I am submitting written testimony in support of SB 777. As a fifth generation rancher in Lake County, I feel it is imperative that we continue to support and bolster our agriculture community and families. As many of you know, our agricultural communities face growing challenges every day. From drought and water issues to wildfires, predators and outside forces who wish to undermine our very existence. In our ever changing world it is important to help our farmers and ranchers continue to thrive and produce the food that feeds our country everyday.

In recent weeks our remote area of southeast Oregon has been dealing with a wolf that has been responsible for multiple kills of baby calves. As painful as the loss of livestock is financially, it is equally difficult in an emotional sense. For most of us this is more than just our business, it's our passion and our tradition. Nothing is more terrible than watching the life of an animal being taken by another. It adds emotional stress, hours of extra work, time, fuel, labor to each of our operations to protect the investments we have worked so hard to achieve. For those reasons I am asking for your support of SB 777 to help our farming and ranching communities with the losses they may incur. Farming and Ranching is the backbone to much of Oregon's economic stability and it is imperative that it be supported and fairly reimbursed for livestock depredations.

Respectfully

Dustin Simms  
SC Ranch LLC