

Submitter: Kimberly Young
On Behalf Of: Tri-County Cattlewomen and all producers
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB777

I am in support of SB777. As a member of the Tri-County Cattlewomen organization I have heard too many testimonies on lost cattle due to the reintroduction of wolves. We are not looking at just "a calf" or "a cow," we need to see the bigger implication these wolves have on the herd and the producer.

A calf sent to auction weighing at 500# can go for \$350 (heifer) - \$400 (bull)*
If the rancher chooses to keep the calf and then sell it as a heifer she can go to auction for \$296*. However, if the producer decides to keep and breed her she will produce 5-8 calves in her lifespan resulting in a profit of \$1750-\$2800 if they are all heifers. And those calves will end up having calves, and so forth.

That lost income is the result of ONE calf killed.

A 2016 study at OSU showed that cows who have been exposed to wolf attacks showed biological signs of PTSD and PTSD related bio-markers in their brain and blood tissue. What does this mean? It means that the breed back rate (when a cow is rebred after giving birth) drops by 20-50%. Stress in cattle results in reduced fertility, lower body conditioning score (they will go for less at auction), aborting calves and dystocia (difficult birth).

This is not about a reimbursement for one calf or cow. This is about reimbursement for the ripple effect that a wolf attack has on a herd, the producer and their livelihood.

*these numbers come out of Producers Livestock in Vale, Oregon