

Submitter: Todd Muller  
On Behalf Of: Western Video Market  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB777

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 777. The economic loss that livestock producers are experiencing due to the reintroduction of wolves has been significant. I am writing not only as a livestock producer but also as a cattle broker for Western Video Market for over 22 years.

When compensating producers for the loss of livestock, not only does compensation need to be at fair market value, but the loss of future opportunity costs needs to be calculated. First, a new born heifer calf's value is significantly less than a nine-month old weaned heifer. Secondly, if this heifer was retained as a replacement, she would have the opportunity to raise approximately ten more calves throughout her life, resulting in a much larger loss to the rancher.

The specific loss of one calf is not the only loss to be calculated. It has been proven that stress caused by wolf harassment has resulted in lower conception rates and early abortions in cattle. Both resulting in high economic loss to producers. It is important that these indirect factors of wolf attacks be taken into consideration. One calf brutally killed for sport by a wolf becomes years of stress and loss for producers. If the reintroduction of wolves has been a priority, then a strong program must be in place to fully reimburse ranchers for their present and future economic loss.