



To: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR

Date: February 27th, 2025

Sub: Testimony in opposition to SB 777 and its -1 amendment

Dear Chairman Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and members of the Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 777. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in Oregon, we would like to register the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, and the Oregon Conservation Network's strong opposition to passing Sb 777. The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV). It is a network of 42 not-for-profit organizations throughout Oregon, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. OCN has designated SB 777 as a Major Threat to a Healthy Oregon.

While the discussion on reforming the state Wolf Livestock Depredation Compensation Program is fraught with challenges and difference in perspectives, there are few things we can all agree on:

- The program isn't working effectively and efficiently in supporting ranchers to serve its intended purpose – to economically compensate ranchers and increase their tolerance to the presence of wolves on the landscape.
- The model instituted more than a decade ago worked when wolves were in a few counties but things have changed on the ground the previous model is proving to be less effective in handling, standardizing and expediting payments

However, the conversation on a multiplier fixates on one issue that needs to be considered in the context of the broader program request that you allow stakeholders to work on this important but complex issue between sessions.

SB 777 focuses on very specific aspect of a complex problem that needs a more holistic look at the whole program. There has been attempts made to have a more comprehensive discussion on the

program at the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water, especially after the 2024 session, but those conversations were cut short because of lack of engagement from the ranching community. Therefore, OCN members request this committee to not move an incomplete concept forward and instead direct the interested parties to work together after this legislative session, and address the main concerns for all involved. This is an opportunity to improve the program where it serves its intended purpose, and reduce the further polarization of perspectives.

OCN members urge you to not support SB 777 or the -1 amendment as written, and allow for more time for stakeholders to find a solution for the sake of Oregon's wolves and for the sake of people sharing the landscape with them.

Thank you for your time. Please hold SB 777 in Committee.



Sincerely,  
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Submitted On behalf of OCN Member Organizations:

**1000 Friends of Oregon | Association of Oregon Recyclers | Beyond Toxics | Bird Alliance of Oregon | Cascadia Wildlands | Center for Biological Diversity | Center for Food Safety | Central Oregon Landwatch | Climate Solutions | Defenders of Wildlife | Deschutes River Alliance | Engineers for a Sustainable Future | The Environmental Center | Environment Oregon | Food & Water Watch | Friends of Mt. Hood | Friends of the Columbia Gorge | Friends of Family Farmers | Greater Hells Canyon Council | League of Women Voters of Oregon | Native Fish Society | Neighbors for Clean Air | Oceana | Oregon Coast Alliance | Oregon Environmental Council | Oregon League of Conservation Voters | Oregon Land and Water Alliance | Oregon Natural Desert Association | Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility | Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition | Oregon Wild | Renewable Northwest | Rogue Riverkeeper | Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter | The Street Trust | Surfrider Foundation | Trout Unlimited, Oregon Council | Tualatin Riverkeepers | WaterWatch of Oregon | Wetlands Conservancy | Wild Salmon Center | Willamette Riverkeeper**