



City of Elgin

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Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, Senators,

The City of Elgin supports Senate Bill 777. Wolves are a virulent strain on northeast Oregon's economy, and while they are not known to venture in city limits, they painfully degrade this region's environment, tourist destinations, and agriculture industries. Wolves are promoted as checks on the deer and elk herds in the region, but this is rarely the case, as depredations on cattle happen far more often than the State of Oregon is willing to admit. Northeast Oregon's great outdoors are less safe due to the encroachment of predators seeking easy prey within close reach of areas where people normally recreate. Their attacks on cattle viciously damage the livestock industry, with a single cow's death often accompanied by lingering health issues that injure nearby animals and kill unborn calves in the womb.

Nobody who lives in communities where wolves are present wishes to live alongside them. If the legislature is insistent on retaining wolf populations in rural Oregon, the legislature must also insist on paying for the damage of this negligent decision. SB 777 is a step in the right direction, ensuring that farmers who lose cattle and working dogs due to the State's protection of an invasive species are compensated at the fair market value for their losses. The City of Elgin urges the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife to send this legislation to the Senate Floor with such amendments as the bill sponsors recommend.

Best regards,

Alex McHaddad, City Administrator