



February 27, 2025

*Re: Testimony on SB 985 and SB 777*

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash and Senate committee members:

My name is Michael Dotson, and I have the privilege to serve as director of the Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center, based in Jackson County. Since 2011 KS Wild has been a founding and active member of the Pacific Wolf Coalition – a group of organizations focused on wolf recovery and coexistence up and down the three Pacific Coast states. For the past decade and a half, KS Wild has worked to support wildlife co-existence measures with rural landowners and farmers in our community. KS Wild supporters include dozens of food producers, family farmers, and livestock operators across rural areas of Jackson and Josephine Counties.

In 2018-2019, my colleagues and I at KS Wild helped raised more than \$6,000 through a crowdfunding campaign to [support the construction of a wolf-deterrent fence](#) on a 245-acre farm in rural Jackson County that had been experiencing depredations of livestock and guardian dogs. I highlight this project as one where ranchers and the conservation community came together to support co-existence. As written and amended, KS Wild does not support SB 777 and requests the discussions between conservation and agricultural interests be reinitiated to explore ways to improve the Wolf Depredation Loss Compensation Program. The bill does not address inefficiencies with the Wolf Predation Loss Compensation Program or improve ways to account for increased management burdens and promote wolf recovery.

KS Wild is also opposed to SB 985, which redirects funds from the General Fund to go to the Department of Agriculture for the loss compensation fund. It's my understanding the state recently cut roughly \$1 million in funding to work on anti-poaching measures and is providing just over \$1 million from the general fund for agencies to conduct wolf management. At a time when legislators and Oregonians are being told to tighten belts, this bill takes \$2 million from Oregon's taxpayers to give to small number of livestock producers that will have limited transparency on whether non-lethal measures are being taken. Oregon's wildlife agencies are best suited to handle wolf coexistence issues, and taxpayers (and wildlife) deserve better.

For the Wild,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Dotson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Dotson, Executive Director, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center