



# OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire  
RE: SB 985

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is Oregon's largest state-centric hunter conservation organization, representing over 12,000 sportsmen and women throughout 26 chapters in the state. Our mission is 'to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage' and we strongly support science-based wildlife and habitat management.

OHA supports compensation for incidents of wolf depredation on livestock as a necessary component of having wolves on Oregon's landscape. As such, OHA supports both SB 985 and SB 777.

The importance of keeping Oregon's working lands working cannot be understated. Farmers, ranchers, and private landowners play an integral part in the creation and maintenance of healthy habitat for wildlife. OHA supports these efforts and the programs that assist landowners in their ability to maintain their livelihood and lands.

The composition program is necessary to offset those damages incurred by wolf depredation on livestock. Ensuring landowners' ability to recoup a portion of the financial losses from these events assists in their ability to maintain their business, herds, land, and heritage.

While OHA echoes the concerns raised regarding the reductions to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) budget that would remove all funding for the anti-poaching program and create a negative impact on OSP enforcement staff, we do not share the conclusion that this reduction in the GRB should be offset by a removal of the wolf compensation fund appropriation contained in SB 985. Both funding appropriations are important and necessary to create equitable support for landowners and producers who suffer losses while normalizing wolves on the landscape.

Oregon's natural resource agencies are chronically underfunded by the General Fund. OHA encourages the committee to invest in our natural resource agencies by supporting both SB 777 and SB 985, as well as the restoration of GRB reductions to ODFW specific to the anti-poaching program and OSP enforcement personnel.

Thank you for your time,  
Amy Patrick  
OHA Policy Director