

Submitter: Creighton & Gabriella Nevin

On Behalf Of: Nevin Cattle Company

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 wolf reintroduction has led to economic loss and added stress to ranchers simply having to change what they've done with their cattle for years. It is leaving ranges ungrazed, cattle that are turned out are stressed, and their body condition is negatively impacted from running around so much, and more weaner calves (700+ pounds) are not returning.

Regardless of the interest of some to get ranchers off of public lands, we can confidently say that properly managed cattle have a positive impact on the range land, they also assist in reducing forest fire fuel which the entire West Coast could benefit from right about now. This year, my husband and I had to make the hard decision to ship our cattle elsewhere for the summer instead of graze the forest because we lost so many calves the year prior. When ranchers lose calves with no evidence or not enough to show, there is zero compensation.

We have seen first hand my husband's family have to leave their private land (that is surrounded by public land) the last two fall's due to so many confirmed and unconfirmed wolf kills when they begin weaning on their own private land. The wolves are smart to their program, so they had to change their program which is not what is best for the cattle or the land that they are on. It comes at an added cost to the producer. Yes, they use non-lethals. Yes, they have night watch in cooperation with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services. Yes, they have completed all necessary paperwork. They lost seven weaner calves just last fall (2024), 5 of them were confirmed and 2 of them they were told there weren't enough remains to indicate it was a wolf attack and not another predator. No, they haven't received a dime of compensation to date.

Will there be a potential bad apple that takes advantage of this program? Most likely. Should there be a system in place and common sense used in these allocations, certainly. With my experience though, ranchers are hesitant to take a handout and some might not until a wolf wrecks enough havoc. The multiplier included in SB 777 is necessary to adequately compensate a rancher for what he or she is truly losing. It isn't just that one calf that was a verified (or perhaps not confirmed) kill. The wolves work the entire herd, the mother's do all they can to protect their calves and the cattle work together as a herd to try to survive. This stress impacts every animal

and comes at a cost to the rancher in the way of less pounds to sell, an animal aborting or not rebreeding, and the overall disposition of their cattle now.

Thank you,
Creighton & Gabriella Nevin
Nevin Cattle Company LLC.