

Submitter: Amy Fitzpatrick

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Measure

Appointment or Topic: SB777

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash and Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 777. The wolf reintroduction has led to drastic economic loss and led to us changing our program, leaving our fall ground early because of so many wolf kills. As soon as we start weaning on our private land, we have immediate problems. We check our calves every morning, but ultimately we have to ship out to Northern California early when the feed isn't ready down south.

Just this last fall (2024) due to so many confirmed and unconfirmed wolf kills. We lost seven weaner calves, 5 of them were confirmed and 2 of them were not because we were told there weren't enough remains to indicate it was a wolf attack and not another predator. We have non-lethals in place. We work with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services on night watch. We have completed all necessary paperwork and what has been asked of us. Our ranch hasn't received any compensation to date for the confirmed or unconfirmed wolf kills in 2024 or prior.

The multiplier included in SB 777 is necessary to adequately compensate a rancher who is under attack by the wolves and the Endangered Species Act listing. The multiplier will be a more accurate compensation for what we and other producers in our state are 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 us and other ranchers in the way of less pounds to sell, an animal aborting or not rebreeding, and the overall disposition of our cattle now.

Thank you,
Amy Fitzpatrick