

Submitter: Kady Porterfield
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB777

While I live on the border of Oregon, but on the California side, my family and I run cattle on leased ground in Oregon and have a history of family ranching in the state of Oregon for several generations. I'm highly in support of this bill and when we would rather not suffer these tragic losses at all because of the heartbreak we must carry with them, at least this will be a more fair form of compensation for the losses incurred. It's more than the right thing to do for the ranching industry and the terror of what our animals endure on the front line of wolf attacks. While we have not lost as many cattle as some others, we have been through the experience. I remember the very first one we lost. She dug herself on her front legs over 50 feet trying to get away as they tore away at her rear end and broke her pelvis in half, then continued to eat on her while she was still alive until she finally bled out enough to pass. Such a long suffering I will never forget. That same night, in order to take down that one, they ran the whole herd through fences and tried to take down several others, so we had bruised and lame cattle that had to heal up over a couple weeks and repairs long stretches of fence lines. Over the 6 weeks, our calves didn't gain any weight, in fact they lost weight over the constant stress and being chased. That's never happened in the history of our program, so the presence and actions of wolves took a major financial toll when we sold them at the end of that 6 week time frame. That's our one paycheck a year. I am so thankful we have not had to go through the added pain of losing a dog yet, but it's still likely to happen one of these days. I genuinely request that you vote in favor of this bill and support the ranchers in Oregon.