

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

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash and members of the committee,

As you know wolves have been in the conversation for many, many years now. The wolf plan was created from multiple stakeholders on both sides of the issues and has been very successful as evidenced by the current wolf numbers and population dispersion across the state. The ranchers have worked very hard in efforts to "co-exist" with the wolf but as we have learned over the years there are multiple negative financial repercussions that are not accounted for. It is time for Oregon to recognize and compensate for the myriad expenses that we have to endure when it comes to predation, health issues and livestock reproduction caused by the increasing wolf numbers. The argument that we are simply trying to get money that isn't legitimate is simply misguided and frankly an insult to the ranchers that are working hard every day to provide safe healthy protein and still stay in a very challenging fiscal environment. I'm quite sure it would be shocking for most of the citizens in our state to learn just how financially little the rancher has to operate our businesses on. When the unexpected costs that are related to wolf issues arise it makes it even more challenging. The Oregon rancher is merely requesting a very small compensation to help relieve the financial strain associated with the co-existence with the wolf. I am in full support of SB777.