

Submitter: James Carnahan
On Behalf Of: Baker County Livestock Association
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB777

As an individual and as President of Baker County Livestock Association, I am writing to support SB 777, with Amendment 5. Even though Amendment 5 reduces compensation for yearlings/calves from the original measure, it remains a much better alternative than the existing program. Wolf depredation is a horrible experience for the ranchers/farmers who lose livestock, and more high value animals such as stock dogs, to these apex predators. Although depredation is a direct financial loss, it is also an emotional loss to see the ways in which livestock are ripped apart, typically in the rear leg, udder, and groin area. Even castrated calves have had their groins torn out. Wolves are not merciful killers.

The 5:1 compensation ratio helps to resolve the associated costs such as reduced conception rates, weight loss, medical costs for those animals that are injured but not killed, and for those animals that are killed by wolves but not found. Scientific evidence shows there are 8 kills for each killed animal found.

Ranchers having been paying for a statewide wolf problem for a long time and SB 777, even with Amendment 5, will help by providing at least a partial solution.