

I am writing to you as a constituent who is concerned about SB 777. I respectfully ask that you not support S 777.

How we frame issues is important. This issue is being framed as wolves v. ranchers. I would frame it as how can we respect and restore our ecosystems when we hunt down and kill the necessary apex predators that keep the whole ecosystem in balance? There is talk of meeting other stakeholders halfway, but how can biologic science be halfway? It either is scientifically or it isn't and scientists have learned, all over the world, that apex predators are absolutely necessary for the health of our planet.

Since wolves have lived in North America for centuries and ranching has only been a part of Oregon for a little over 150 years, an argument can be made that descendants of white European settlers are the interlopers, and as such, it is our task to find a way to fit in to what is already here, not shoot wolves. Two bills before the Legislature are about humans killing native, wild animals, cougars and wolves. How does this show respect for animals in the 21st Century?

I'm told the current program is working successfully, and this new bill just adds money to the pockets of those making claims that wolves are killing their livestock. I was raised in ranching country in Nevada, have worked on ranches myself and respect how hard that work is. Still it is a choice and like all in society who make choices, we must accept the good with the bad.

I'm speaking for the wolves as stakeholders, today, because I'm not sure who represents their long term interests in these legislative debates. Please vote NO on this bill and protect our current experiments in restoring Oregon's original natural values. Best, Bryan Holley | Ashland, Oregon