

Submitter: Connie Dunham  
On Behalf Of: Dunham Ranch  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural  
Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB777

As a long time resident of Wallowa County where the majority of Oregon wolves live, and being a cattle rancher who has experienced losses to wolves, I am solidly in favor of this amendment to the operation of the Oregon Wolf Plan. It is very difficult, if impossible to be reimbursed for calves that disappear in large grazing areas such as timber or canyons because the number lost can't always be calculated. Yet they know that for every verified kill, there are probably 7 more depredations in that area. This modification would at least reimburse ranchers more of a fair value. Since we have had no say on whether we want this apex killer on our properties, it is the obligation of the state to compensate us for loss and this is a fairer way to do it. Ranchers deserve the chance to make an income and stay in business in this state, as agriculture and particularly beef, provide much needed nutrition and economic return to the state.