

Submitter: Becky Orf

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or SB777
Topic:

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Members of the House
Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:

I urge you to oppose SB 777A.

I fear that the dramatic increase in the amounts awarded under the Wolf Predation Loss Compensation Program (WPLCP) will reduce the investment and work on reducing wolf-livestock conflict. The WPLCP has received broad support over the years for its efforts to reduce conflicts with wolves. Farmers and ranchers are currently compensated at fair market value for any cows, sheep, and the like, or guardian dog losses due to wolf predation. However, SB 777A sets a new standard at seven times the current amount of compensation. The need for the state to pay seven times the fair market value for lost animals is likely to discourage efforts to manage wolf predation short of killing wolves. This bill seems to do nothing to advance wildlife coexistence measures in Oregon.

I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 777A and not move this bill forward.