



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
RE: SB 777 Support

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is Oregon's largest state-centric hunter conservation organization, representing over 12,000 sportsmen and women throughout 26 chapters in the state. Our mission is 'to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage' and we strongly support science-based wildlife and habitat management.

OHA supports compensation for incidents of wolf depredation on livestock as a necessary component of having wolves on Oregon's landscape. As such, OHA supports SB 777.

The importance of keeping Oregon's working lands working cannot be understated. Farmers, ranchers, and private landowners play an integral part in the creation and maintenance of healthy habitat for wildlife. OHA supports these efforts and the programs that assist landowners in their ability to maintain their livelihood and lands.

The composition program is necessary to offset that damages incurred by wolf depredation on livestock. Ensuring landowners' ability to recoup a portion of the financial losses from these events assists in their ability to maintain their business, herds, land, and heritage.

While OHA generally does not engage in the extended compensation discussion regarding the appropriate multiplying factor, we are encouraged by the -5 amendment and support a reasonable solution that reflects the chronic losses incurred from predator pressure and depredation.

Thank you for your time,
Amy Patrick
OHA Policy Director