

Submitter: Thomas White

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or SB777
Topic:

I am writing in support of SB777.

While agencies and some of the public may desire to have wolves on our landscape, livestock producers are the ones that bear the burden of co-existing with these predators. Compensation for producers needs to be fair and account for this added burden. While compensation for loss on confirmed kills can replace the actual market value of the animal, it cannot replace the other impacts to the rest of the herd. As producers, we know that some impacts to livestock from the added stress of being harassed by wolves will include: loss of pregnancy, lower weight gains, poorer health and overall decreased animal welfare, to name a few. This also doesn't take into account the emotional and financial stress placed on the producer. The current compensation does not take any of this into account. SB777 strives to fill this gap by providing the multiplier. While all the issues stated above can never fully be rectified, the additional compensation can help to cover some of those issues that have an economic impact, but are difficult to calculate. If livestock producers are going to bear the burden of co-existing with an apex predator, based on the wishes of those who are not impacted by that predator, they need to be justly compensated. With this, I urge all members of the committee to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Thomas White