

Submitter: susan prince

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB777

Chairman Golden and Vice-Chair Nash. I appreciate this opportunity to testify today in opposition to SB 777. My name is Susan Prince and I am a Co-Founder of the Sisters based Wolf Welcome Committee.

SB 777 is a misguided bill. Compensating for 5x the cost of a cow is not an incentive for co-existence. It does not encourage the use of non-lethal tools especially as it contains no built-in requirements to show that those tools were appropriately being used - prior to depredations. Currently there already exists a robust compensation plan. What is needed is more funding for non-lethal protections. SB 777 would take away from that pool of money, leaving producers without the tools necessary to be successful.

(In our area there are only 2 wildlife biologists covering 7 counties. Funds should also go towards hiring more staff.)

In the past year, poaching of Oregon's wolves has gone up while the amount of depredations have decreased. This hatred of wolves needs to be addressed. Senator Todd Nash was quoted saying that the 5 times multiplier bill would build "social acceptance and tolerance to wolves". This is false and Montana is a prime example. Montana has had a 3.5 times multiplier and still allows the killing of 334 wolves seasonally by all forms of inhumane methods.

What this bill does do is further institutionalize the negative perception of wolves. Such fear driven mindsets influence political decisions, weaken legal protections, and discourage ranchers and landowners from adopting non-lethal conflict prevention methods.

Additionally, fear-based rhetoric and legislation can fuel illegal killings, disrupt pack structures and sometimes even increase livestock predation as destabilized wolf populations struggle to hunt effectively. It's a lose-lose proposition.

According to the 2022 USDA Livestock Census, there are approximately 1.4 million cattle and sheep in the state. ODFW conducted 72 depredation investigations in 2024 and found 104 confirmed and probable kills. Assuming that all probable kills were indeed wolves, that comes out to .00007% of the cattle and sheep population in the state.

No other state in the nation is asking for this type of Compensation. SB 777 is an outlier bill, is not needed and would only disincentivize producers from using non-

lethal methods to protect their livestock.

SB 777 flies in the face of the Oregon Wolf Plan's mandate to conserve wolves.

Please vote no on SB 777.

Susan Prince

Wolf Welcome Committee

Sisters, Oregon