



# UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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April 30th, 2025

SB 777 A

Co-Chair Owens, Co-Chair Helm, Vice Chair McDonald and Committee Members,

For the record I'm Jake Seavert, Union County Commissioner who sits on the county wolf depredation committee, Union County Cattlemen's President and sit as Vice Chair on the Animal Health and ID committee for Oregon Cattlemen's Association. It is always an honor and a privilege to provide testimony on important issues affecting Oregonians. I would like to express my full support for Senate Bill 777 A and the companion Senate Bill 985, which provides compensation for injury to livestock or working dogs under the wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program. SB 985 will also fund a proactive trust fund.

I know of several producers in our association that do not participate in any of the wolf compensation programs for a few reasons such as fear of retaliation, time spent on documentation and lack of funding to support the current program. SB 777 A would encourage active participation for our livestock community as well as promote non-lethal measures as a preventative approach to wolf and livestock conflict. If incentivized sufficiently, livestock producers will be monitoring wolf activity more frequently and utilizing tools supplied by agencies such as fladry, trail cams and range riders thus reducing conflict and reduced depredations. The wolf committee accepts applications from affected producers in which then we assess them in terms of non-lethal efforts and confirmed depredations. We have an ODFW Biologist attend our committee gatherings and refer to them to confirm the use of non-lethal approaches.

While sitting in our wolf compensation committee, myself and a fellow rancher who also sits on the committee did a rough calculation of removing the missing livestock from the applications, and added in the confirmed depredated livestock with the initial ask of 7:1 multiplier. The amount of this difference would have saved an estimated \$14,000. With a steady increase in the wolf population year after year, we need to address the increase in wolf / livestock conflict. We need to focus on science and move away from personal emotion.

In conclusion, Senate Bill 777 A provides essential support to livestock producers facing the challenges posed by wolf depredation, ensuring they receive fair compensation for both visible and hidden losses and also encourage active participation in reporting and using non-lethal measures.

Jake Seavert  
Union County Commissioner  
Union County Cattlemen's Association President  
Vice Chair Animal Health & I.D. Oregon Cattlemen's Association