

Submitter: Jane Bicquette

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure: HB4127

February 6, 2022, 1 pm

Written Testimony Submitted to Land Use, Agriculture and Water Committee

By Jane Bicquette
29040 SW Baker Rd.
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RE: HB 4127

Dear Committee on Land Use, Agriculture and Water
Chair Ken Helm

Vice Chair Susan McLain

Vice Chair Mark Owens

Members Representatives Jami Cate, Pam Marsh, Jeff Reardon, Anna Scharf, David Brock Smith, Marty Wilde, Anna Williams, Brad Witt

Wolf predation in Oregon accounts for fewer than 23 cows per year, on average (see OPB article 2021/12/02). Are this bill's sponsors suggesting that Oregon tax payers are to pay ranchers an additional \$1,000,000 for the loss of those 23 or fewer cows each year?

The Wolf Compensation Fund was put into place to first and foremost foster the co-existence with wolves in Oregon. This means financial support, yes, for the verifiable and legitimate loss of cattle to ranchers. But more importantly, the fund was set up to help put in place non-lethal preventative measures that foster co-existence with wolves in Oregon. New fencing, fladry, flashing lights, etc. can cost ranchers extra, so it seems valid to help a rancher put in place such materials. As a tax payer, this makes more sense than paying ranchers millions of dollars for livestock loss, especially when the loss is so small. There are approximately 1,445,000 cattle in Oregon (see OPB article mentioned) and only 178 wolves. Clearly, ranchers are trying to fleece Oregon tax payers by over-exaggerating the true losses of cattle by wolves.

We absolutely need to protect habitat for wolves and other predators. The "cattle industry" can learn to live with the relatively few losses caused by wolves each year. Over tens of thousands of cows die each year from causes unrelated to predation. The "cattle industry" has already factored such losses in to their business planning,

so adding in a few losses from wolves seems doable and certainly does not add enough to their losses to justify giving them an additional \$1,000,000. The Wolf Compensation Fund already has provided \$400,000 to Oregon ranchers, which to me, in itself seems excessive, considering the number of verifiable losses of cattle by wolves. Our 178 wolves have a right to survive and thrive in Oregon, and they should certainly not cost tax payers \$1,000,000 extra give-away to ranchers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jane Bicquette