

Submitter: Drusilla Winters

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure: HB4127

When the Wolf Compensation Fund was first created, it was used as a way to allocate funds for non-lethal preventative measures, provide financial assistance to livestock owners who verifiably lost livestock to wolves, and help build tolerance and coexistence. Instead, what we've seen is a misuse, waste, and abuse of these funds coupled with a lack of increased tolerance for wolves. The Wolf Compensation Program needs is more accountability and transparency, not more money.

Even worse, this request for one million dollars comes on the heels of the fund receiving \$400,000 from the Oregon legislature, just last year. Instead of issuing more and bigger checks to this program, we need an overhaul to ensure it's actually doing what it set out to do: support livestock operators for direct losses and build tolerance for wolves.

This bill fails to address the need to take non-lethal measures. No one should be compensated unless they have demonstrated that they have done everything in their power to ensure the safety of their animals without harm to the wolf population.