

**Subject: Testimony in opposition to HB 4127 (wolf compensation fund)**

Dear Chair Helm, Vice Chair Owens, Vice Chair McLain and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use and Water Resources:

We are co-founders of the Benton County Agriculture and Wildlife Protection Program ([AWPP](#)). This county-operated non-lethal wildlife deterrents grant program has a nearly spotless record of assisting ranchers with protecting livestock from cougars and other predators.

We believe that everything you need to know about why you should oppose this bill can be found in Shella DelCurto's testimony. It is important to take notice when a rancher who sits on a county Wolf Compensation Committee asks for ALL missing cattle funds be used to fund the use of non-lethal wolf deterrent methods and tools.

The Wolf Compensation Fund is over ten years old and needs to be restructured. Ranchers should only be compensated for wolf depredations confirmed by ODFW staff, not for unconfirmed missing animals. Compensation for confirmed wolf depredations should only be made when best animal husbandry practices and non-lethal deterrents are being used.

Now more than ever, with uncontrolled wolf poaching and wolf population growth stalled, we need to provide support for ranchers using non-lethal wolf deterrent techniques.

Respectfully,

Randy and Pam Comeleo  
Corvallis