

Submitter: Veril Nelson

On Behalf Of: Oregon Cattlemens Association

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

Measure: HB2631

To: Committee on Agriculture, Land use, Natural Resources, and water

I am writing this in support of HB2631. Paying 7 times the value of a confirmed or probable kill by wolves is a more fair and straight forward method of compensating ranches for lost livestock due to wolves. Currently Oregon Fish and wildlife investigate the carcass and ignore signs at the scene. If the carcass is totally consumed they are likely to claim the animal may have died of other causes. Ranchers will not be compensated.

The biggest cost of wolves to ranchers is weight loss of livestock due to harassment. It is common in this scenario for cattle not eat or stay in areas of pasture where there is limited food. Cows are commonly 100 pounds lighter at \$1.00 per pound that costs the rancher \$100 per head. Calves are commonly 50 pounds lighter at \$2.00 per pound That costs \$100 per head. The loss of weight ad value on a 400 cow herd would be \$80,000. Additionally as much as 10% of cows harassed by wolves abort the fetus and won't calve.

Polls show Oregonians want wolves in Oregon. The wolves belong to all Oregonians. If that being the case ALL OREGONIANS should pay for the damage they due. Currently Ranchers are paying the costs of wolves in Oregon.

Thank you,  
Veril Nelson