

Submitter: Connie Dunham

On Behalf Of: Dunham Ranch

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

Measure: HB2631

This is a very important bill for ranchers in Oregon. It has to be clear that ranchers should be compensated for wolf related losses because the Oregon Wolf Plan included this relief from financial loss and that was a large part of why ranchers agreed to the Wolf Plan to begin with. We have had calf and cow losses to wolves, the majority of which we were not compensated for. Animals can easily be lost to wolves in canyons and forested areas and not found in time to report a loss that is confirmed. So those that can be confirmed, need to be recognized in order for ranchers to feel it's worth their time to even turn a depredation in. We have had to move cattle from good pastures to prevent losses, we must visit remote areas very frequently where cattle are spread out and it takes hours to check on them. We have cattle who don't breed back after harassment by wolves, or who are difficult to handle. Cattle lose weight due to moving around more in the presence of wolves, which drives down your proficiency and leads to lighter calf weaning weights. All these things affect our bottom line. We can't even use dogs to round up or move cattle because they only want to turn on the dogs, thinking they are wolves. Our food supply is important to the people of Oregon and they deserve to have their ranchers supported by the state adhering to the original provisions of the Wolf Plan.

Thank you,