

Submitter: Tess Baker
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB777

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire,

Thank you for considering such an important bill this session.

Wolf predation is a serious concern among cattle producers in our area, and rightfully so, as there have been at least six confirmed wolf kills in our community within the last week, all by just one wolf. Not only does the loss of livestock have a direct financial toll on the rancher, but there are also a myriad of indirect costs. When a calve is killed, producers are not only bearing the cost of the loss of that calve, but also the loss of the costs it took to bring that calve into the world, including breeding, feed, vaccination, transportation and management costs associated with its mother for the previous nine months, and the cost of retaining a cow that is not actively raising a calve and will need to incur a years' worth of expense before she is able to try again. These financial costs span over two years, just for the loss of one calve, who when valued using strict market value, will only be worth a few hundred dollars.

Aside from the costs associated directly with the livestock, the costs to the producer to report a kill, guide ODFW employees to the site of the kill, provide statements about what they saw and submit for reimbursement takes an abundance of time that is a precious resource to producers as they work to protect their herd from further predation.

In addition to the drain on financial and time resources, these wolf predation events also take a huge emotional toll on producers as they bear the loss of life, the financial uncertainty and fear of reoccurring kills.

I urge you to vote in favor of Senate Bill 777 to provide producers with a more just compensation structure for the loss of life on their operations due to wolves.

Sincerely,

Tess Baker