

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

I'm writing to oppose this Bill. SB 777 would alter compensation rates from fair market value to five times that amount, during a time when Oregonians and Oregon's legislators are being told to tighten budgets. This 5x multiplier would be unlike most others nationwide, and if approved, the 'loss compensation program' could be rapidly drained. This could have devastating consequences and lead to less support for non-lethal coexistence measures. The need for a 5x multiplier is unclear, and the bill actually accomplishes very little to advance wolf recovery and co-existence in Oregon. In a February 2024 High Country News article, author Ben Goldfarb points to studies in other parts of the country where wolf compensation multiplier bills were passed under the guise of "improving tolerance for wolves"; but in reality, there was very little change in the perception of wolves.

Wildlife advocates have a voice in this matter, and they are being left out of discussions on this bill in this session. Given implications on the state budget, all Oregonians have a voice in this matter especially where only a very small number of large ranches and farms will benefit.

Sincerely, Marion Hadden