

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

Eastern Oregon has seen an increased number of wolves in the last several years. The landscape is remote and rugged and many wolf kills are never found in time to make a "confirmed kill". Cattle and sheep producers have endured many expenses in trying to protect their herds. They have had to hire additional help, brought in guard dogs, put up additional fencing, etc. The devastation wolves bring to a cattle rancher is beyond just the actual expense of losing a cow or calf. Cattle that have wolves in the vicinity act very differently than before the wolves arrived. Cattle are very unsettled and are quick to turn on your horse or dogs when you are moving them to another pasture. Cattle do not breed back as easily, if at all due to wolf presence. If they do breed back, they have a higher abortion rate. While many wolf kills are never found or therefore, confirmed, ranchers should, at least be paid market value for any livestock confirmed to be killed by a wolf. While this bill is a step in the right direction, it still is not enough. If a person sees a wolf chasing their livestock or killing it, they should be able to euthanize the wolf on the spot!

Beef cattle is one of Oregon's top industries. Oregon needs this business! Please show your support to help keep our ranchers in business by at least providing fair market value for livestock lost due to wolves. I urge you to support SB 777.