



Crook County

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February 12, 2025

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 777

Dear Members of the State Senate,

On behalf of the Crook County Board of Commissioners, we write to express our definite support for Senate Bill 777. This bill is critical for the agricultural community within our county, addressing key concerns surrounding the compensation for livestock and working dogs impacted by wolf depredation.

Senate Bill 777 sensibly revises the current compensation framework under the wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program. It ensures that payments for injuries to livestock or working dogs are based on fair market value alongside other relevant factors. Importantly, this Act introduces a cap on compensation payments at \$25,000 per animal, which we believe will lead to a more sustainable and judicious allocation of state resources.

Moreover, by removing the provision that authorizes compensation for missing livestock, Senate Bill 777 aligns compensation practices with verifiable losses, ensuring that funds are distributed more efficiently and transparently.

The provisions of Senate Bill 777 reflect a balanced approach to wildlife management and agricultural protection. By supporting this bill, we are safeguarding the interests of our farmers and ranchers while promoting responsible wildlife management practices.

We urge all members of the State Senate to support the passage of Senate Bill 777. Its enactment will not only benefit the agricultural stakeholders of Crook County but will also serve as a significant step forward in our state's ongoing efforts to manage wildlife interactions effectively.

Thank you for considering our stance on this vital matter. We look forward to the beneficial impacts of Senate Bill 777 and are dedicated to aiding in its effective implementation. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need additional information or wish to discuss this significant legislation further. Supporting Senate Bill 777 is an investment in the future of Crook County and the overall well-being of Oregonians. We are enthusiastic about the positive changes this bill will bring and are prepared to collaborate towards its success.

Sincerely,

X 

Brian Barney
County Commissioner

X 

Seth Crawford
County Commissioner

X 

Susan Hermreck
County Commissioner