

# TARA MILLAN LAW

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February 27, 2025

The Honorable Todd Nash  
State Senator  
900 Court Street, Northeast  
S-421  
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Bobby Levy  
State Representative  
900 Court Street, Northeast  
H-385  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: testimony regarding Senate Bill 777, submitted via OLIS

Senator Nash, Representative Levy and members of the committee:

I support Senate Bill 777 as a rancher in Southern Oregon. Wolves are more and more present in our region and adversely affect the herds. With the cattle industry contributing over \$1 billion dollars annually to the economy of Oregon, it is vital that policymakers understand the detrimental impact of wolves upon the rancher.

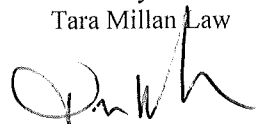
Wolves cause loss of cattle by a direct kill of a cow or calf and that death, brutal and emotionally hard for the rancher, is also a direct economic loss for the rancher. The loss of a calf or cow, generally means at least a loss of around \$2,000. Wolves also cause financial loss via stress pressed upon the herd from the wolves' harassment. Harassment causes financial loss to the rancher as it adversely affects conception rates and increases abortions amongst the mama cows. Growth rates among young animals slows, body condition in older animals, that is, in simple terms, the cow's ability to keep healthy weight on, suffers greatly when the herd is harassed by wolves. Overall herd health is affected, and the herd can become much less resilient, which raises the future cost of care for the rancher.

Current non lethal deterrent processes, which seek to deter harassing wolves, are most labor intensive leading to increased labor and management costs for the rancher. A great many folks opt out of the current program due to its intense monitoring requirements which are most often not achievable.

SB 777 addresses needed change in the current program removes the missing livestock payment structure. The multiplier payment, for confirmed/probable wolf kills, reflected in SB 777 is a great improvement.

Thank you for your advanced consideration of my written testimony in favor of SB 777.

Cordially  
Tara Millan Law



Tara Millan  
(Yankee Creek Ranch)

*No enclosures*

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