



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Oregon House committee on Revenue

Chair Nathanson, Vicechair Reschke, Vicechair Walters, members of the committee, for the record, I am Union County Commissioner Paul Anderes.

I am in support of HB4134.

Senate Bill 777 was a step in the right direction, but without funding it fails to hit the mark. We appreciate Senator Nash's efforts to bring SB777 forward and advocate for producers that are suffering losses to wolves and the Counties that administer the compensation programs.

Much of the testimony that you will hear is from those actually being impacted by wolves. This species is causing economic impacts to producers in Union County and across Eastern Oregon. This bill takes initial steps to support the losses of producers. Working lands carry real costs from wildlife and wildfire. Dedicated funding supports practical solutions that benefit visitors. People travel to Oregon for open space, fish and wildlife, outdoor recreation as well a glimpse into the ranching lifestyle.

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's most recent map of Known Wolf Activity shows that a majority of my County is occupied by wolf packs. Wolves are so plentiful in Union County that they were trapped here and shipped to Colorado. Our producers have and continue to suffer losses from wolves killing cattle, sheep, goats, dogs and even Llamas.

In Union County – base upon applications for both deterrent and compensation has been underfunded at every year since the inception of the program.

The time has long passed to compensate producers for their losses. It is wrong to expect producers to bear the burden of having wolves in Oregon.

Please pass HB 4134.

Sincerely,

Paul Anderes