

Dear Madam Chair, Nathanson and members of the Oregon legislature,

I raise cattle and work for my parents on their ranch in Southern Oregon where we have incurred numerous losses from the Rogue pack and now from the growing Grouse ridge pack.

We as ranchers have put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into our operations. Our family takes great pride in retaining our own females and raising livestock.

We love the outdoors and respect all wildlife. But we have been saddled with the burden of feeding these apex predators. And even though monetary compensation is of little solace, it is all we have been given. Depredations go far beyond the market value of an animal. Stress, time, weight loss, abortions and cattle that do not breed back. We have also experienced a temperament shift in our cattle and then the long-term uncertainty, whether we can survive this wreck.

I am not a fan of increasing taxes however I am in support of the passage of House Bill 4134.

This bill would modestly increase Oregon's transient lodging tax and dedicate those funds to habitat, wildlife, wildfire prevention, as well as wolf depredation compensation and conflict reduction tools.

I urge community members, local leaders and legislators to support House Bill 4134 and ensure Oregon's ranching families are not the only ones footing the bill.