



Eastern Oregon Counties Association

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Oregon House committee on Revenue

Chair Nathanson, Vicechair Reschke, Vicechair Walters, members of the committee, I am Union County Commissioner Paul Anderes Co-chair of eastern Oregon Counties Association (EOCA)

EOCA is 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.

Wolves have been causing and continue to cause negative economic impacts to producers 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 Eastern Oregon 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.

Across Eastern Oregon 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

Co-Chair Eastern Oregon Counties Association

MEMBER COUNTIES: BAKER – CROOK – DECHUTES – GILLIAM – GRANT – HARNEY – JEFFERSON – KLAMATH – LAKE – MALHEUR – MORROW – SHERMAN – UMATILLA – UNION – WALLOWA - WHEELER

