

Testimony for HB4134  
February 26, 2026  
John Williams, Co-chair wolf committee  
Oregon Cattleman's Association

Chairman Broadman, Vice Chair MacLane and members of the committee, I am John Williams, rancher in Wallowa County and eastern Oregon co-chair of the wolf committee for the Oregon Cattleman's Association. I support the passage of HB 4134.

I am going to focus my time on the wolf compensation portion of the bill which provides stable, long-term funding to finish the work the legislature started by passing SB777 last year. SB777 created a multiplier of up to 5 to 1 on livestock for confirmed and probable wolf depredations.

When SB777 passed ranchers were encouraged that the state of Oregon was recognizing all the various costs and reduced income that they are enduring since the wolves arrived. The new policy would partly address the emotional turmoil that rancher are working thru and the necessary changes in their time commitment. Unfortunately, instead of attending kids programs, participating in community events and enjoying the great country they live in, they are now conducting intense livestock checking, increased fencing, and other non-lethal work followed by finding their livestock slaughtered on the landscape and the ensuing investigations, reports, meetings and lost time.

HB 4134 would offer reliable and consistent long-term funding, supporting the costs they are already dealing with. It would finish the update of the wolf compensation program started last year with the policy change. It would bring ranchers to the table to participate in wolf management and

help them survive the ever-increasing population saturation in the eastern part of the state. It will also financially help the western  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the state survive the wolf attacks on livestock where they are protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act.

An effective compensation program that is fully funded is an important part of fully implementing the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. It is the first step in encouraging ranchers to more fully participate in the wolf management.

Please vote to pass HB4134, a permanent funding package of wildlife programs and wolf compensation.