

To: House Committee on Natural Resources
Senator Brad Witt, Chair
Email: hnr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: HB 4075 - Prohibiting coyote killing contests - SUPPORT

Coyotes and other native carnivores play a critical role in healthy ecosystems. Those connections and links are complex and not well understood. One thing we do know is that coyotes benefit humans through rodent control and disease prevention, and promoting diverse plant communities and soil fertility. Disrupting the coyote population can have detrimental ecological effects.

Killing contests are also counterproductive to sound wildlife management. Scientific studies tell us that these killing sprees can create instability and social disorder in the family structures of the remaining animals. Countless animals are injured and orphaned young are left to die. The experienced individuals who would pass down appropriate knowledge and hunting behaviors to younger animals are killed. This leaves adolescent animals more apt to survive by preying on livestock and leads to increased conflicts with pets and people. For example, the number of surviving pups that remain to be fed by the alpha parents, and the increased number of transient individuals, leads the coyote population to depredate livestock. Coyotes protect their own territory and will block other coyotes from coming into their area. Studies show that coyotes, when hunted, actually increase their breeding to replace their population, and that where coyotes are killed by humans, less competition results in significantly higher survival rates for the remaining coyotes.

The only reason for continuing these contests is gratuitous violence. Making a contest of killing animals is ethically indefensible. These contests have no place in our state and degrade the reputation of sportsmen. Seeing images of contest participants with piles of coyote carcasses is only additional fodder for gun control advocates.

All wildlife deserve respect and responsible, science-based conservation and management. Please pass this bill to end coyote killing contests. Thank you for your consideration,

Respectfully,

Susan Mates
8945 NW Oak Street
Portland, OR 97229