

Coyotes are not game animals, there is no closed season on them, and no limits on the number that can be harvested. In rural areas they are unwanted due to predation on domestic livestock and pets. Coyote populations are very resilient, and the relatively small number killed in these rural contests really don't make a dent in overall numbers. It is an unnecessary restriction on legal hunting within Oregon's wildlife laws. SB723 is an attack on our hunting traditions. What will be next? This bill highlights one of the cultural divides between urban and rural Oregonians. While urban dwellers may think coyotes, cougars and wolves are cute, rural residents who see their lambs, sheep and cattle eaten alive don't share that view. This bill creates a new "victimless" crime for hunters engaged in lawful activity. There is NO public harm in holding a contest where participation is voluntary.

Morrie Chappel