

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Dr. John W. Laundré Professional large predator ecologists

Re: SB 723-2; Relating to prohibiting coyote contests

Dear Distinguished Committee members,

I would like to respectfully submit my official written support to the proposed Senate Bill 723-2. I am a professional wildlife ecologist who has been studying predators, including coyotes, for over 35 years. I have also been a hunter and grew up on a farm. Apart from the lack of any scientific reason to purposely hold coyote killing contests, I would like to base the majority of my support for this bill on the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation (NAM for short). This model is claimed by the hunting community as providing the guiding principles for managing ALL wildlife in the United States. It's seven tenets ("sisters") are oft quoted by wildlife agencies and hunting organizations such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. As such, adherence to its tenets regarding wildlife conservation should be honored by hunters and game agencies. Consequently, I argue that tenet # 5 of this document specifically places the full support of the NAM for this bill.

Tenet #5 is the Non-frivolous use statement of the NAM and specifically states: **In North America, individuals may legally kill certain wild animals under strict guidelines for food and fur, self-defense and property protection. Laws restrict against the casual killing of wildlife merely for antlers, horns or feathers.** There are two very important components of this tenet that support SB 723-2. The first is that wild animals should only be killed under strict guidelines for food and fur, self-defense, and property. Currently, coyotes, a native species of Oregon is not killed under any such guidelines as it is hunted year-round without limits. It is not killed for food nor is the sport hunting of coyotes, including killing contests, related whatsoever with self-defense or protection of property. As the true intent of this tenet is to protect native wildlife from uncontrolled killing, no native species of wildlife should be hunted without strict guidelines to protect it. They should especially not be subjected to uncontrolled killing contests. Thus, under the mandate of the NAM, such killing contests should not be allowed.

The second and most important part of this tenet is that wildlife should not be killed for casual, frivolous reasons. Though just listed here is killing for antlers, horns, or feathers, surely holding a contest to see who can kill the most and biggest coyote, just for fun, falls squarely under casual and frivolous killing of wildlife and be prohibited by the NAM. Such contests are not only frivolous but wanton killing of wildlife. Such contests harken back to the "good ole days" when hunters could kill as many animals as they wanted, just for fun. Good ole days where hunters had contests to see who could shoot a bighorn sheep and get it to fall the closest to camp. Good ole days where hunters would continually kill passenger pigeons by the hundreds, changing guns as barrels became too hot to use. The good ole days that supposedly modern wildlife management, fostered in part by hunters, attempted to eliminate. But yet this practice continues today and is even sanctioned as somehow a traditional right by hunters. What right is that? To not only frivolously but wantonly kill as many wildlife as they could? Does not the NAM, the sacred document of hunters, specifically forbid such killing, not just for favored species but ALL species of native wildlife. No hunter has a right to kill an animal just to kill it. Coyote killing

contests, for that matter, any wildlife killing contest, are one of the most basal and reprehensible inhumane acts humans can inflict on wildlife. Based on the NAM, they should be outlawed, not sanctioned.

If the hunting community of Oregon cannot live up to the NAM and police such actions by its members, then the other 95% of us who do not hunt but also own the wildlife, have the right (Tenet # 3 of the NAM) and responsibility to step in and stop this inhumane practice. SB 723-2 does this and thus has both mine and the NAM's full support.

Thank you for your time in this issue.

Dr. John W. Laundré

Professional Wildlife Ecologists

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