

Dear Senator Linthicum,

I am writing to voice my opposition to Senate Bill 723. As a lifelong animal owner, recreationalist and a professional natural resource manager, the loss of opportunity to participate in competitions as they relate to working animals (i.e. dogs) will adversely impact the abilities of myself and family to enjoy the state of Oregon. Competition across the United States has been used for over 130 years to evaluate hunting dogs. These competitions help to further the health and diversity found within each unique breed. These competitions are founded on traditions passed down from generation to generation. These traditions provide an avenue to pass down ethical behaviors to the next generation, namely my children. Competition is not a blood sport, rather a tool to better understand the natural environment, its processes and the impacts that humans have on nature, thus providing opportunity for future generations.

Methods of managing predator and prey populations are science based tools which are used to maintain balance in the ecosystem; in both rural and urban areas of the State. The elimination of management tools used to control damaging levels of predators will adversely impact the ranching, farming and recreational communities in this State.

Please oppose SB 723.

Travis Erickson