

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

I cannot attend the public hearing on this matter, but strongly support ending coyote killing contests, and agree to the amendments limiting the scope of banning animal killing contests to coyotes at this time (though I think contests to kill other mammals are un-sportsmanlike also).

There is a lot of research to show that killing coyotes is ineffective in managing predation, and that coyotes have a significant nature role to play. Where I live, in rural South Salem, coyotes quickly eat up decaying deer killed by cars or which die of natural causes. They have saved us from the stench of several decaying deer near our property.

Coyotes rarely kill healthy deer, and mainly cull the weak or sick ones. They manage skunks and invasive ground squirrels and mice. They have long been around here, and do not cause problems if people adequately protect their livestock and do not leave food out for cats, etc.

Coyote killing contests are barbaric. Oregon should be beyond that. These contests make Oregon sound like the deep south, with uncivilized, unscientific approaches to living with wildlife.

Sincerely, Laurel Hines 10371 Lake Drive SE, Salem, Oregon 97306