

Greetings: I am writing in strong support for SB 723 which (prior to -2 amendments) would prohibit wildlife killing "contests" in Oregon.

I understand that the current amendments limit the SB 723 to only coyote killing contests. I believe that these are the main, most egregious "contests" currently being promoted. While I would very much prefer the prohibition of ANY wildlife killing contests, I am still urging that SB 723, in the form of prohibiting coyote killing contests, be supported by the Committee and passed.

Wildlife killing contests are horribly bloody, cruel events that disrupt ecological function and health, degrade the value of individual animals, teach disrespect for wildlife, and inflict and promote cruelty to animals. Coyotes and all wildlife are not "pests" nor are they "vermin". They are all a part of our complete ecological world. Killing off large numbers of coyotes, additionally, does not reduce their numbers as there will be a natural rebounding of the number of coyotes in the area.

While I hope the Committee will support SB 723 without the -2 amendments, I am still in favor of the bill if it will prohibit coyote killing contests. That will be a good start.

---Margaret Stephens