

**Please Vote Yes on S.B. 723 to stop cruel and inhumane wildlife killing contests.**

Wildlife killing contests primarily target coyotes but leave countless other animals injured, dead, or orphaned as well. Hunters indiscriminately hunt and kill animals as part of a contest, luring them for an easy kill with sounds that mimic prey or their young in distress.

It is a myth to suggest killing coyotes or other animals for prizes or fun as part of a contest serves any ecological purpose. In fact, coyotes are a necessary part of a healthy ecosystem. They reduce rabbit and rodent populations and increase biodiversity.

Killing wildlife indiscriminately for fun is contrary to sound wildlife management. It is well known that randomly killing coyotes interferes with their pack structure. This means there can be increases in conflicts among and with coyotes. Randomly killing coyotes and disrupting their pack structure can also actually result in increases in their populations.

There is thus no scientific evidence at all that randomly killing coyotes for prizes or fun as part of a contest reduces their populations. Just the opposite.

Michael Finley, Chair of Oregon's Fish and Wildlife Commission, has condemned wildlife killing contests, stating, *"There will always be an element of society that has no regard for the living world and you will never change their minds; their ancestors were the same people who wiped out the passenger pigeon and put notches in their rifle stocks as buffalo hunters. They may derive a lot of personal delight in blowing away these animals but when you ask them why they do it, they can't provide a good answer because there isn't one."*

Oregon has banned animal fighting, dog fighting and cock fighting and the like. These are senseless blood sports, cruel and inhumane. Wildlife killing contests are just as senseless, just as violent, and just as cruel and inhumane.

It is time for Oregon to look to the future with sound and humane wildlife management practices. It is time for Oregon to ban wildlife killing contests. Please vote YES on S.B. 723. Thank you.

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