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To:

Oregon Senate Committee on Judiciary-

I am writing concerning SB 723. This bill if passed would have drastic impacts on those of us that enjoy hunting and the out of doors with our bird dogs or those who choose to hunt predators. Coyote derbies are a means of managing a species that can cause problems if not managed. In some states Coyotes are killed with M44 a device that shoots cyanide into the animal's mouth. Shooting a coyote is a much quicker, more efficient and cleaner death than that of an M44.

My problem with SB723 is that I see it as a means of slowly eroding the privileges of those who have hunted for generations. I also see the potential of impacting field trails of dogs for prizes and the legality of hunting a preserve for prizes with my dog.

I realize that there are those that are uneasy with hunting and come from a background where their family did not engage in these activities. Additionally, I don't want everyone to start hunting. However, I do wish that those who are uneasy with it would take a step back and examine it through multiple lenses before rushing of to judge those who choose to engage in it. Hunters and recreational shooters are the folks that do the majority of funding for wildlife.

The Pittman-Robertson was signed on September 2, 1937 creating an excise tax on firearms, ammunition, scopes and other hunting goods. This money is spread out over the US for habitat restoration, and wildlife management funding. These monies benefit game species and non-game species. Groups such as the Audubon Society do good work yet, they do not do the heavy lifting of paying for wildlife programs that Pittman-Robertson money does.

Please reconsider your vote on SB723 and help to preserve hunting and the legacy of hunting for future generations. These matters need to be looked at in depth and not through the lens of media that often does not show or regard hunting in the best light.

Thank you for your time. Regards,
Derek Yost