

Dear Chairman Prozanski and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I strongly urge you all to support SB 723-2, the bill to prohibit coyote killing contests in Oregon.

Many of the opponents of SB 723-2 are inaccurately portraying this bill as an attempt by non-hunters to infringe upon the “rights” of hunters and an example of the divide between urban and rural Oregonians. I am an urban Oregonian who does not hunt, but I do I have enough respect for the hunting community to believe that no ethical, responsible hunter would even use the term ‘hunting’ to describe these barbaric coyote killing contests.

The Boone and Crockett Club in their April 15, 2016 Fair Chase Position statement says: “The Club also believes that hunting is a **privilege** that must be earned repeatedly...” In a changing society where fewer people engage in or are even supportive of hunting, I believe SB 723-2 is necessary for the hunting community to maintain that privilege. If the general public associates “hunting” with dead coyotes being dragged around as toys for a hunter’s dog and tossed like bags of trash into a pickup truck while young children watch - and are taught by example that this sickening behavior is acceptable - that will lead to real threats to hunters “rights” in the future.

Opponents of SB 723-2 are also spreading the false narrative that coyote killing contests are a valid wildlife management tool to protect livestock from depredation and increase game populations. Wildlife management should be science-based and the science says indiscriminate killing of coyotes does NOT decrease livestock depredation. Paradoxically, the more coyotes are killed the more livestock are depredated! Using non-lethal methods to protect livestock coupled with the targeted killing of individual problem coyotes is a much more effective way to reduce depredations. The claim that killing contests increase game populations is not supported by scientific evidence either. The limiting factor for most game species is habitat, not predators.

Please end coyote killing contests in Oregon by supporting SB 723-2.

Thank you for considering my request.

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