



February 28, 2019

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301
Re: SUPPORT SB 723-2, End "Coyote Killing Contests"

Dear Chairman Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

Ceasefire Oregon supports SB 723 which would prohibit coyote killing contests in Oregon. The inhumane taking of coyotes violates evidence-based wildlife management principles and is far out of step with modern wildlife stewardship practices.

Oregon is not the first state to address the barbaric killing of coyotes in "contests." California (2014), Vermont (2018), and New Mexico (2019) have already banned this cruel practice.

Studies show that indiscriminate killing of coyotes does not reduce conflict with pets or livestock nor does it protect native wildlife. In fact, the loss of coyotes has a negative impact on the ecosystem.

In 2006, Camilla Fox of Animal Protection Institute, Sacramento, California, stated in the report, "Coyotes and Humans: Can We Coexist," "... lack of agency coordination, combined with a largely uneducated populace, hinders effective conflict resolution. Consequently, responses to coyote conflicts are usually reactive and fail to address the root causes of most conflicts, i.e. a constant food source. Failure to address these root causes often leads to a vicious cycle of trapping and killing. Moreover, inconsistent and exaggerated reports of coyote attacks can lead to heightened public fears, which may limit the opportunity for establishing long lasting proactive coexistence strategies." (1)

In 2007, The Coalition to End The Aerial Gunning of Wildlife stated, "The numbers of predators killed to protect livestock is highly disproportionate—perhaps on order of 1.5 to 9.7 million animals were killed for the benefit of agricultural interests 'without cause' (that is, indiscriminate killing) during the period 1996 to 2001 (Treves and Karanth 2003a). Several conservation biologists have called high levels of predator killing the "sledgehammer" approach to wildlife management, that is removing the most animals from an area as possible (Logan and Sweaner 2001; Mitchell et al. 2004; Stolzenburg 2006). Lethal controls, including poisons, are not selective for specific animals, but rather are used to remove the most individuals from an area (Mitchell et al. 2004)." (2)

The Coalition's report described the beneficial role of coyotes, "Despite their persecution, coyotes play a keystone role in the ecosystems they inhabit. They protect numerous species by controlling populations of medium-sized carnivores, called 'mesopredators,' which can include skunks, raccoons, house cats, red foxes, and badgers etc. Coyotes indirectly benefit many ground-dwelling birds, and kit foxes by controlling mesopredators (Crooks and Soule 1999; Cypher and Spencer 1998; Gompper 2002). Coyotes increase the biological diversity (that is, the variety) of rodents in their systems (Henke and Bryant 1999)." (2)

Killing animals for prizes is unethical and inconsistent with our current understanding of coyotes and of natural ecosystems.

Ceasefire Oregon urges the Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee to support SB 723 and end coyote killing contests.

Thank you.

Penny Okamoto
Executive Director
Ceasefire Oregon

1. "Coyotes and Humans: Can We Coexist," Proc. 22nd Vertebr. Pest Conf. (R. M. Timm and J. M. O'Brien, Eds.) Published at Univ. of Calif., Davis. 2006. Pp. 287-293.

https://predatordefense.org/docs/coyotes_case_study_CFox_CoyotesHumansCoexist_2006.pdf

Retrieved on February 27, 2019

2. Testimony from "A Coalition to End Aerial Gunning of Wildlife," presented to Tim Kesler, Chair, and Jeff Vonk, Secretary, South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks Commission, August 21, 2007.

https://www.peer.org/assets/docs/sd/07_21_8_aerial_gunning_petition.pdf

Retrieved on February 27, 2019