



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony on SB-723-2
Bryan Cook, Field Director

Senator Prozanski and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

For the record, I am Bryan Cook, Field Director for the Oregon Hunters Association. I work closely with our 25 chapters statewide, and more than 10,000 members who belong to those chapters. OHA is strongly opposed to SB-723-2. This bill would make it a crime for local chapters to sponsor something as simple as a raffle contest, where you get a raffle ticket for each pelt, and a chance at a prize.

In rural areas coyotes are unwanted due to predation on domestic livestock and pets. This bill highlights the cultural divide between urban and rural Oregonians. While urban dwellers may think coyotes, cougars and wolves are cute, rural residents who see their lambs, sheep, cattle and house hold pets eaten alive don't share that view. Coyotes also inflict significant losses on deer and elk, especially fawns and elk calves.

The Klamath Chapter contest only takes out 30-40 for all Klamath county in an entire year. The bill is an unnecessary restriction on legal hunting within Oregon's wildlife laws.

SB723 is an attack on hunting. What's the difference between a coyote contest and a fishing derby? If this bill passes, more bans will be added in future years.

There is no public harm in holding a contest by a private non-profit association where participation is for Members only and voluntary. Please put this bill to rest.