

Betty Patton
NE Portland resident

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and committee members, I want to thank you for this opportunity to present to you about SB 723 to ban coyote killing contests. My name is Betty Patton and I have been a resident and voter of NE Portland for over 25 years. But I didn't know until just a few months ago that killing contests still existed, particularly in Oregon. I am surprised and saddened.

I cannot imagine a justification for this type of event. They are implemented for the sole purpose of killing. The only thing gained from this is – ka-ching! – another point on a scorecard, teaching and encouraging killing for fun. I cannot imagine this act being acceptable in any civilization.

If the goal of killing contests was to control the population of a certain animal, this is the wrong way to do it. Animal behavior science has proven this. Random killing in a community causes chaos resulting in a fight for leadership among the survivors. Among coyotes and other animals this results in additional breeding pairs jockeying for dominance and populations are expanded fairly quickly.

All beings are part of an ecosystem and coyotes are no different. One of their primary food sources is small rodents. This probably helps farmers protect their vegetable and grain crops.

The kind of killing that is encouraged through killing contests is inhumane. And for that reason alone, if nothing else, these events should be outlawed.

This issue is not an urban versus rural division. There are humane citizens in rural and urban locations, as well as killers in both areas. Banning coyote killing contests is a decision based on ethics and common sense.

Again, I thank you for this opportunity to share my opinion and knowledge.

Betty Patton