

March 18, 2019

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**Re: SB 723 -2 Support**

Dear Chairman Prozanski and Members of the Committee:

As former President of the California Fish and Game Commission, I'm writing to encourage you to support SB 723-2 that would prohibit coyote killing contests in Oregon. In 2014, when I was President of the California Commission, we enacted a statewide ban on wildlife killing contests. I believe this was one of the most important votes of my tenure.

My 30-year career in wildlife conservation spans more than a decade in government service, as a special agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and as a park ranger with the National Park Service in Yosemite, Yellowstone, Biscayne, Death Valley, and Virgin Islands National Parks.

In 2014, when the California Fish and Game Commission was considering action to ban wildlife killing contests, I said, "Awarding prizes for wildlife killing contests is both unethical and inconsistent with our current understanding of natural systems. Such contests are an anachronism and have no place in modern wildlife management."

Historical approaches to predator control—the random killing of predators to mitigate conflicts with livestock, pets, and humans, or reducing predation on game species—have been proven ineffective. The science is clear on this, and many other wildlife management professionals agree. Accordingly, New Mexico and Vermont recently enacted bans on coyote killing contests, and other states are now considering prohibitions as well.

Oregon and California are known for progressive approaches to wildlife management and cutting-edge conservation programs. To honor that tradition, I respectfully ask for your support of SB 723-2 to end cruel, wasteful, unsporting, and unscientific coyote killing contests in the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Sutton", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Sutton, Former President  
California Fish and Game Commission 2007-2015  
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