



HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Date: May 14, 2019

From: Humane Voters Oregon

To: Senator Ginny Burdick and Members of the Senate Rules Committee

Re: Senate Bill 723

Dear Senator Burdick and Members of the Senate Rules Committee,

On behalf of Humane Voters Oregon, I am writing to urge you to hold a hearing on SB 723, which would ban cruel coyote killing contests in Oregon. This bill has already passed the Senate Judiciary Committee with bipartisan support and a “do pass” recommendation, It should have gone directly to the floor, but instead it went to the Senate Rules Committee for reasons that remain unclear. We trust that the outstanding leadership on the Senate Rules Committee will act on the measure and allow the full Senate to vote on it as a matter of transparency and fairness.

Coyote killing contests are cruel and inhumane and have no place at all in responsible hunting or sound wildlife management. These contests simply represent wanton waste of wildlife. It would be deeply disappointing if Democrats with a supermajority failed to move forward a bill with bipartisan support that would codify a ban on coyote killing contests.

Humane Voters Oregon is a 501(c)(4) which advocates for humane animal welfare legislation and provides information to the public on how legislators vote on priority animal welfare bills. This year we will consider adding a new category to our annual evaluation of the legislative process: **Worst Animal Welfare Vote/ Non Vote of the 2019 Legislative Session**. SB 723 is a likely candidate for this designation. Oregon Democrats, with their important supermajority, should be leaders on animal welfare issues. This bill, which has bipartisan support, is not a close call and should be moved through the legislative process in a timely manner.

Coyote killing contests are high profile events and they will increase in profile during the coming year. Inaction on this measure will taint this legislative session as a matter of animal welfare. I am confident that common sense and a commitment to compassionate policy making will get this important and sensible measure back on track.

SB 723 represents an important opportunity to protect Oregon’s wildlife.

Respectfully,

Bob Sallinger
President
Humane Voters Oregon